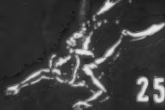


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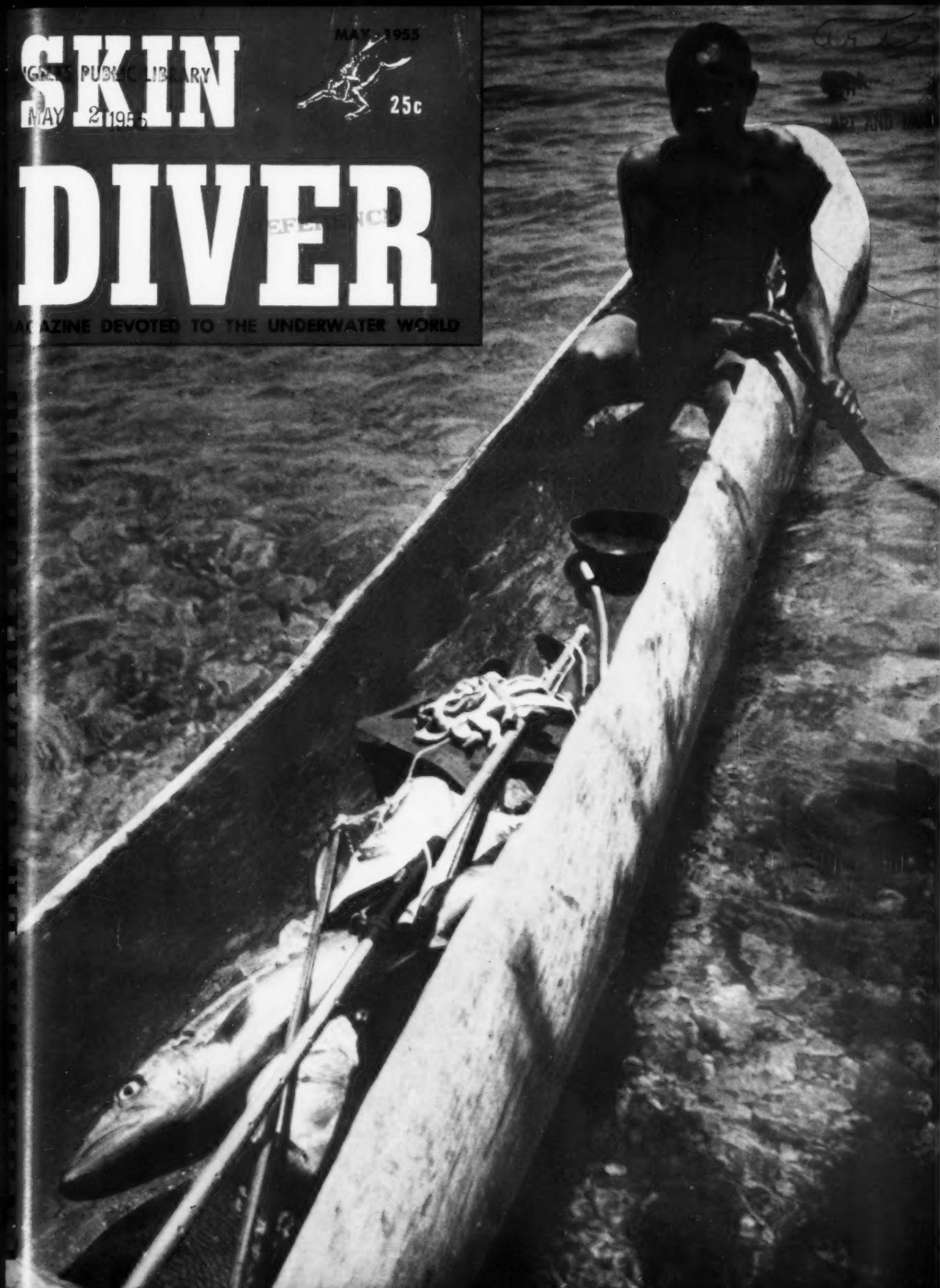
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# DIVER

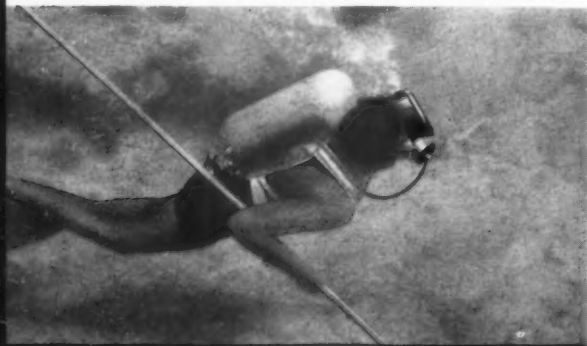
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- HYDRO-PAK features include: Natural rubber, full-face mask with 5 1/2" safety glass lens. Air "Econo-Miser" for using atmospheric air while diver's head is above water. Water ejector button to instantly clear mask, no water swallowing.

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Patented and Registered

Distributed exclusively by Healthways in the Western Hemisphere. The world's finest professional equipment... used by United States, French and Italian Navy, frogmen demolition teams and salvage divers throughout the world! Used exclusively by the foremost underwater photography and exploration groups.

HEALTHWAYS Peche-Sport Suits are made of extra thick, fine pore foam rubber vulcanized between two layers of tough smooth rubber skin which is unbelievably tear, snag and scuff resistant. The unusually tough material and the exceptionally fine construction and workmanship make this an outstanding buy! The Peche-Sport will out-perform and outlast by far any other suit on the market. Peche-Sport exclusive materials are the heaviest and best used in any vulcanized foam rubber suit now manufactured and are known the world over for their great resistance to exposure to water and sun.

This vulcanized foam rubber suit is known as an isothermic suit; the reason for this being that it operates under an isothermic principle in which the millions of tiny air cells, trapped in the foam rubber, help the body to retain its heat, by

acting as an insulating blanket to protect against the penetration of the temperature of the water which is usually far below that of the body. This isothermic principle makes possible the maintenance of comfortable body temperature and is not available in any other type rubber suit now made. Healthways' Peche-Sport suit is not to be confused with the "wet" type suit which is made of porous type foam rubber which allows the body to become wet within a few minutes and which affords little protection against the cold. The "wet" type suit, as it is commonly known, will disappear from the market wherever the Peche-Sport suit can be used since the Peche-Sport suit combines all the features essential to maximum comfort in all water temperatures where a rubber suit can be worn at all.

## PECHE-SPORT TAHITI

One piece short suit with exclusive patented wrap-around supporter-apron and belt. (Does not include helmet or socks).

Sizes: Small, Medium, Large.  
Weight 2½ lbs.  
CAT. NO. P-SS  
retail \$49.50



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Includes full length pants with new exclusive suspender design, long shirt with long sleeves and helmet attached and detachable vulcanized foam rubber boots. Sizes: Small, Medium, Large.  
Weight 6½ lbs.  
CAT. NO. P-LS retail \$84.95

## SIZE TABLE — PECHE-SPORT SUITS

SMALL —5' 8" in height to approximately 160 lbs.  
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PECHE-SPORT suits may be worn with or without long underwear or underclothing. Many persons find that wearing clothing underneath is desirable, especially where there is a great amount of physical activity, as it helps to protect the skin against the possibility of irritation under the arms, between the legs, etc.



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INQUIRIES  
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HEALTHWAYS... the world's most complete line of water sports and sports diving equipment!

Healthways Peche-Sport is being used throughout the world in all climates and under the most exacting requirements. Its availability in the Western Hemisphere has already caused the greatest furor since rubber suits of any kind were first introduced.

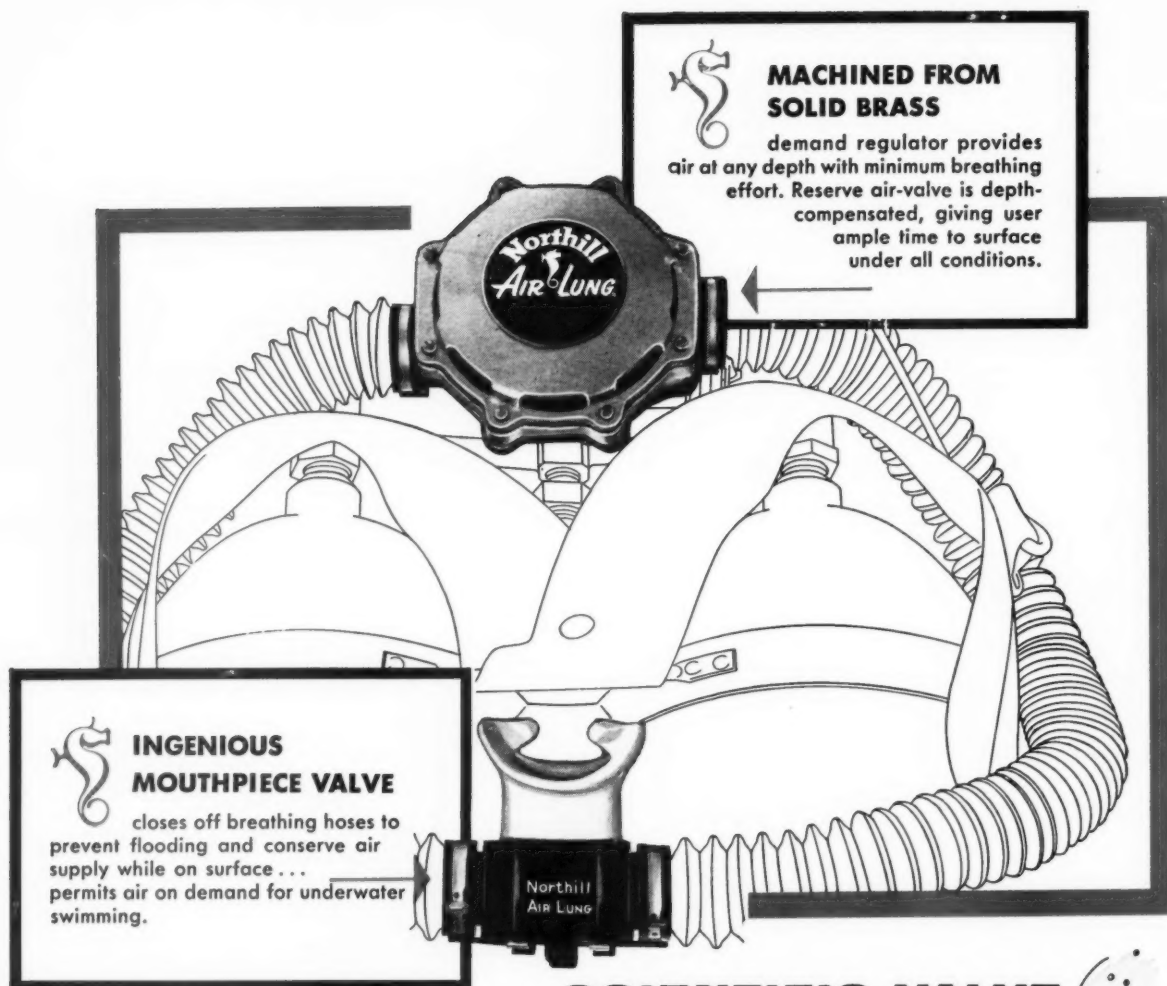
Healthways Peche-Sport vulcanized foam rubber suits are expertly designed to mold to the figure with pure natural gum rubber vulcanized to the foam rubber at the neck, wrists, waist and ankles... assuring a snug watertight fit. Peche-Sport suits are so comfortable that they can be worn for many hours at a time. It is for this reason that they are used by the world's foremost diving teams, underwater demolition services of many governments, and leading research organizations. Should the material at any time be damaged or torn, it can easily be repaired with an ordinary rubber cold patch, or vulcanized. Available at your sporting goods dealers who feature the fabulous Healthways line of underwater sports equipment!

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Two sizes:  
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and Large.  
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retail \$4.50

Sold separately.  
One size  
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### MACHINED FROM SOLID BRASS

demand regulator provides air at any depth with minimum breathing effort. Reserve air-valve is depth-compensated, giving user ample time to surface under all conditions.



### INGENIOUS MOUTHPIECE VALVE

closes off breathing hoses to prevent flooding and conserve air supply while on surface... permits air on demand for underwater swimming.

## SCIENTIFIC VALVE

## DESIGN MAKES NORTHILL AIR-LUNG WORLD'S FINEST

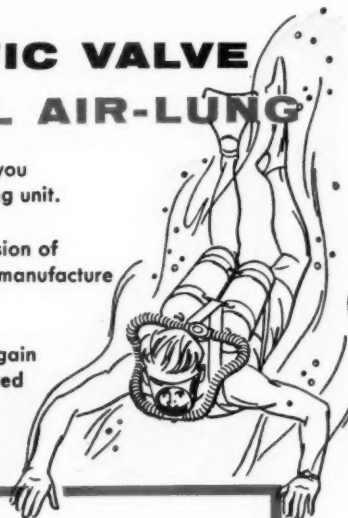
Skin-divers, make sure you see the new Northill Air-Lung before you buy your next underwater breathing unit. It gives underwater swimming entirely new ease and safety.

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See your sporting goods dealer for further information about this newest, finest aid to underwater swimming.

- See the Northill Air-Lung at the Sportsmen's Show, Pan Pacific Auditorium in Los Angeles, from April 14, thru April 24, 1955.



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# The SKIN DIVER

P. O. Box 128, Lynwood, California  
Phone: MEtcalf 3-7851  
NEvada 6-6067

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**JIM AUXIER**

Editor

**CHUCK BLAKESLEE**

Advertising Mgr. - Assoc. Editor

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are submitted bi-monthly by club publicity representative and consist of one typewritten page, double spaced, 200 words per report.

Address all correspondence to:

**The SKIN DIVER**

P. O. Box 128

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## MAY COVER

*Gustav Dalla Valle's boat handler beaches a native dugout canoe for photographer Marcel Isy-Schwart on one of the many shady nooks along the Haitian coastline. From "Haiti Cherie," published by Editions Henri Deschamps, Port-au-Prince.*

## Inter America Underwater Spearfishing Championships

May 29, 1955

Sponsored by

Guaymas Sport Fishing Club

with the cooperation of the International

Underwater Spearfishing Association

Under Sanction of The

**MEXICAN AMATEUR FEDERATION**

LOCATION: Guaymas, MEXICO

AWARDS & TROPHIES:

1st Place Team—Presidential Trophy

2nd Place Team—Governor's Trophy

3rd Place Team—Mayor's Trophy

AWARDS:

1. Greatest Individual Aggregate.

2. Largest Individual Single Catch.

**INTER - AMERICA UNDERWATER  
SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

are open to 3-man club teams from Canada, United States, Mexico, Central & South America, Caribbean Mandates, Colonies and Countries. Only teams of Clubs officially organized 3 months prior to the date of the competition are eligible. Not open to unattached divers.

**TRAVEL PERMITS** and amateur card must be obtained from your National Amateur Federation to enter competition in Mexico. (Exception—Armed forces).

**CANADA:** A.A.U. of Canada, c/o James Worrall, 17 Hawthorne Ave., Toronto, Canada.

**U. S.:** A.A.U. of U. S. c/o Daniel Ferris, 233 Broadway, New York 7, N.Y.

**MEXICO:** M.A.F. of Mexico, c/o Manuel Guzman Willis, Vallarta 11, Apartado Postal 125, Mexico, D. F.

**JAMAICA:** Amateur Swimming Council of Jamaica, B.W.I. c/o Abe Issa, Harbour St., Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I.

**SOUTH AMERICA:** South American Federation of Athletics, c/o Luis Galvez Chipoco, Casilla Postal 1496, Lima, Peru.

**AGE LIMIT:** 16 yrs. & up. Written permission from each minor contestant's parent or guardian will be required. Name and date of competition must be included in written permission.

**REGISTRATION HEADQUARTERS:** Guaymas Sport Fishing Club.

**REGISTRATION HOURS:** All day Saturday, May 28, 1955. 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. Sunday, May 29th on the ocean side of the Miramar Hotel on Boca-chibampo Bay.

**REGISTRATION FEE:** \$1.50 per team member. Payable at Registration.

**DURATION:** Competition shall last 4 hours.

**STAGING AREA:** Ocean side of Hotel Miramar on Boca-chibampo Bay.

**ASSEMBLY:** 8:00 A.M. on ocean side of Hotel Miramar.

**TEAMS:** Each Club may enter a 3-man Team. No substitute or alternate. Divers may come out and go into the water again as often as they wish. An alternate for a sick or missing member may register officially until 9:00 A.M. Sunday May 29th, provided he is a member of the same Club and has an amateur Registration Card.

**BRIEFING:** 8:30 A.M. to 9:30 A.M. All judges watches will be synchronized with diving time beginning at 10:00 A.M. Small boats equipped with outboards will rendezvous with Ship Headquarters Boat at sea. One Judge and team per small boat will begin diving at 10:00 A.M. All diving will cease at 2:00 P.M.

**SAFETY:** Aqua-Guards.

**RULES** of the International Underwater Spearfishing Association shall be strictly adhered to: (a) Swimming under the water. (b) No artificial breathing apparatus (c) No assistance.

**LIABILITY:** A Waiver-of-Responsibility must be signed by each competitor at time of Registration.

**SCALES:** Certified scales are to be used.

**WEIGHING:** Weighing will be done by the judges.

Team will be responsible for keeping catch separate until weighed.

No catch under 6 inches in length will be weighed.

A 35 lb. maximum per fish for Individual Aggregate or Team Total will be in force. Larger fish may be taken but only 35 lbs. will count towards the total. The total weight of the largest fish will count for the Individual Largest Single Catch.

**DECISION OF THE JUDGES WILL BE FINAL.**

**PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES:** To be made after end of competition on May 29, 1955.

Presentations by Mayor of Guaymas, Mexico and/or Officials.

**EDWARD RAY GRAY,** Negotiator, Serpents Club, Los Angeles, California.

**ERNESTO ZARAGOZA,** Chairman, (Telephone: 11 & 25) Cluz Yzala, Apartado Postal No. 41, Avenida Serdan No. 82, Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico.

**RALPH DAVIS,** General Chairman, (Telephone: NO 5-6729) Underwater Sprfg. Championships Comm. of the I. U. S. A., Los Angeles County Muecum, Los Angeles 7, California, U. S. A.

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**Wanted—\$10,000 . . .**

## '55 Champions to Europe Fund

Help send your 1955 National Underwater Spearfishing Champions to Europe to compete with Spain, Italy, France and Russia for the International Title on August — 1955.

The Skin Diver Magazine has kindly consented to act as trustee for the fund and contributions should be sent direct to: "55 Champions to Europe Fund," c/o Skin Diver Magazine, P. O. Box 128, Lynwood, Calif.

With Underwater Spearfishing a National A.A.U. sport, Entry Fees at Championships events have automatically been lowered. A \$1.00 contribution from each individual or club member will ensure the best for our champions. The winning club may be yours.

The winning team will be flown to New York unless the National Champion Team is from the New York Association. The U. S. Divers will be outfitted there with American colors, garb and insignia. The A.A.U., through the Department of State will arrange their visas and they will emplane on a Pan American Clipper for a through flight to Barcelona, Spain.

Plans have been made for the American team to fly to the Spanish island of Mallorca where they will have five days to train in the waters where the meet will be held.

The major city of Palma on the island of Mallorca was a post war base for the American U.D.T. and Edward Gray of the Serpents Underwater Spearfishing Club, who spent two years there, reports the temperature very warm in August and the underwater conditions favorable for high team totals.

Because of the great amount of dynamiting that has been done along the shores of the Mediterranean, fish are relatively scarce in shallow water, thus forcing the underwater spearfishermen to hunt at great depths. It is not uncommon for first class divers to exceed one-hundred feet during the course of European Championships. However, the waters surrounding the island of Mallorca are still relatively unspoiled.

The unofficial Italian free dive without

a lung is now 145 ft., the official depth still remains at 127+ ft.

In spite of the fact that Italy has so many hundred foot divers, Mairata, Bonet and Pol of Spain captured the European Championships in Italys back yard at Sestri Levante. It is not generally known that Spain has had an Underwater Spearfishing Association since 1947, and so it was not without some surprise that the European nations saw Spain dominate the team competition. It was with Luis Puyo and Bonet of Spain that the International Underwater Spearfishing Association first communicated in the process to standardize the rules for Underwater Spearfishing World's Records. Yellow-tail have been taken in Spain weighing 89 lbs.

This will be the first time an American Underwater Spearfishing Team has competed in Europe and we urge everyone who has an interest in the pastime of skin diving and the sport of underwater spearfishing to support this worthy effort to make our sport truly international. Make all contributions payable to "55 Champions to Europe Fund" and send to "Skin Diver Magazine," Box 128, Lynwood, Calif.

### CHAMPIONS TO EUROPE COMMITTEE

Fred Beitz—A.A.U.  
 Gustave Dalla Valle—Pescaport Magazine  
 Jim Auxier—The Skin Diver Magazine  
 Charles Blakeslee—The Skin Diver Magazine  
 Dr. Paul DeBach—University of California  
 Ralph Davis—Chairman.

### Weather Report from Miami, Florida

APRIL 7, 1955

CHARLIE ANDREWS SAYS:

Highest temp. for the week. . . . . 84° F.  
 Lowest temp. for the week. . . . . 58° F.  
 Highest water temp. for the week. . 74° F.  
 Lowest water temp. for the week. . 71° F.  
 Winds. . . . . 20 to 25 MPH  
 Water. . . . . Dirty starting to clear

### Weather Report from Los Angeles, Calif.

APRIL 12, 1955

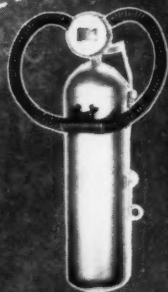
McFARLAND SAYS:

Highest temp. for the week. . . . . 68° F.  
 Lowest temp. for the week. . . . . 56° F.  
 Highest water temp. . . . . 59° F.  
 Lowest water temp. . . . . 57° F.  
 Winds. . . . . 15 to 30 MPH  
 Water. . . . . Several clear days

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**AQUA-LUNG** scuba

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The romance of skin-diving and the mysteries of the deep are yours—make them safely yours with **AQUA-LUNG** scuba. When you buy, insist on the one and only **AQUA-LUNG**. It's proven 100 percent safe and reliable, used by: American, British, French and Canadian Naval Forces • Approved by U.S. Government Bureaus & Departments • Fire Departments • Shipping Companies • American Red Cross • Colleges and Universities • Harbor Commissions • Used exclusively by motion picture studios in such films as "Underwater," "The Frogmen," and "20,000 Leagues Under The Sea." **AQUA-LUNG** scuba is now the standard of the world.

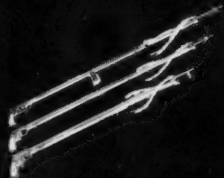
**"CYRANO" MASK**—The largest field of vision of any diving mask. Protruding nose facilitates "blowing" to compensate for water pressure. Recommended for "AQUA-LUNG" diving. . . . . \$4.95



The Seamless suit (dipped pure latex)  
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\*self contained underwater breathing apparatus

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# Patrick O'Malley

## Selected 1954

### National Underwater

### Spearfishing Athlete

### Of The Year

PAT O'MALLEY, the third underwater athlete to receive the Helms award and a member of the Dolphin team that took second place in the 1954 Nationals at Key West, Fla.



Receiving the famous Helms Award, given for the most outstanding performance in amateur underwater spearfishing competition, Patrick O'Malley tops a list of two former award winners, Dr. Nelson Mathison and Arthur Pinder.

With an impressive record in competition made even more gruelling due to the added eliminations, Patrick O'Malley has shown himself worthy of this high honor.

Patrick O'Malley is not new to victory in Underwater Spearfishing having competed as a member of the Sea Downers Team that won the National Championships in 1952. His team was 3rd in 1953 and 2nd in 1954. The Dolphin team of which Pat is a member, took first place in the 1954 Pacific Coast Championships.

It is not unexpected to find that the background of each National Underwater Spearfishing Athlete of The Year is outstanding. Pat, who is 31 years old, 6 ft. 5 1/4" tall and weighs 235 lbs., was born in California. In 1938 he won the San Francisco Call Bulletin 50-yd. free-style swimming competition. During the war he served on one of the best teams of all, the United States Marines as an instructor in Judo and hand-to-hand combat and

saw active service in the South Pacific. He graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of New Mexico.

The National Underwater Spearfishing Athlete of The Year is chosen from the contestants of any sanctioned State, Regional, or National Championships. All catches must conform with the Fish and Game laws of the region in which taken and with the rules of the I.U.S.A. with performance limited to the continental United States and Territories, except in team competition outside the United States. He must be a resident and citizen of the United States. The award may be made only once to the same person.

Major stress in selection of the National Underwater Spearfishing Athlete of The Year is given to the competitive record of the underwater spearfishing athlete at Club, Inter-Club, Regional, State and National Championships so that the achievement may be indisputable.

The Helms Award, Athlete of The Year for the sport of underwater spearfishing, was obtained through the efforts of the International Underwater Spearfishing

Association in 1952. The first aim of the I.U.S.A. as a non-profit, scientific and service organization is: To encourage the sport of underwater spearfishing as recreation and as a potential source of scientific knowledge. The major purpose of National Championships and giving recognition to underwater spearfishing athletes is to attract large numbers of people to the sea so that a larger end product of serious researchers may be obtained who seek answers to the many questions still unanswered in the underwater world.

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR  
COMMITTEE OF THE I.U.S.A.

#### SPECIAL MENTION FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

Gibby Dear—Marlins, Los Angeles  
Donald Pinder — Tritons, Miami Florida  
Fred Pinder—Tritons, Miami, Florida  
Charles Sturgill—Southern California Skin Divers Club, Redondo, Calif.  
Bill Yamachika—Nisei Kelptanglers Los Angeles, Calif.  
Bud Abernathy—Southern California Skin Divers Club, Redondo, Calif.  
Jack Dudley — Snorkels, Riverside Calif.

# 8mm Underwater Camera Case

By C. W. FINKL

Before building your underwater camera case, you have to decide on two things—the camera to be encased and the tools you have available. The rest is up to your ingenuity as there is no end of shapes and sizes of plastics, and methods of sealing or pressurizing.

My selection was an 8 mm Bell and Howell Sportsman with an F-2.5 Wide Angle Lens. The case had to be machined in a small metal turning lathe, so this froze the design—everything machined had to be round.

The camera fit nicely into a 6" O.D. x 1/4" wall x 2 3/4" long cast Plexiglas cylinder with room for a G. E. Mascot exposure meter. One side was formed from a 1/2" thick sheet of Plexiglas that was cut into a 6" circle by the supplier, and a 1/4" shoulder was turned to slip into the cylinder 1/4 of an inch. The end of the cylinder was partially dissolved in ethylene dichloride solvent and pressed onto the side, welding into an invisible watertight joint. The excessive stock was then machined

and polished flush with the side of the cylinder.

The removable side was machined from a 3/4" thick sheet of Plexiglas. This side screws in and out of the case, is sealed with an "O" Ring and a machined face, and is the answer to all cover leakage problems. It is much quicker than the bolted type which greatly facilitates loading. Machining the threads is rather tricky, as cast cylinders vary a little in size. If you chuck the case on the solid end, you can "skin" out just enough material in the open end to form a perfect circle for about 5/8 of an inch. Then cut 20 threads per inch .032" deep and don't forget to provide 1/8" x 1/32" deep relief at the end of the thread to pull out the threading tool. Cut a 5/32" wide x .035" deep undercut at the beginning of the thread for a seat for the "O" Ring, and be sure to face the end of the cylinder.

The removable side is chucked for about 1/4" and the balance threaded using the case as a thread gauge—the O.D. of this thread being the I.D. of the case thread plus 0.065".

After threading, undercut 5/32" wide below the face shoulder to a depth sufficient to give .005" squeeze on the "O" Ring. This squeeze seems to work best for "O" Rings in plastic and should be used

on the smaller sizes for the winding and focusing knobs.

A clear flat surface is required for the lens, so a 2" circle was cut from 1/4" sheet and cemented to the machined end of 2" O.D. cast tube with 1/8" wall. Cut a hole in the case with a hole saw, large enough to accommodate the lens, and shape and cement the tube in place, soaking the end of the tube in solvent for 3 to 5 minutes before assembly. Any "bad" spots in the joint can be fused together by placing a few drops of solvent on the joint from an eye dropper.

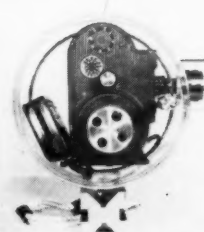
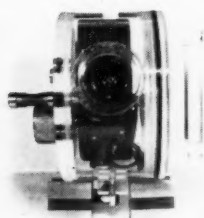
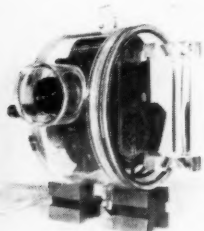
The controls vary with the case, camera and application. Use stainless steel wherever possible, and "O" Rings for seals. It is quite simple to drill and ream plastic case for the control shafts, and undercut the shaft to accommodate a 1/16" wall "O" Ring providing .005" squeeze and at least .015" side clearance. Be sure to chamfer the plastic so you don't cut the "O" Ring on assembly.

For linear motion, surgical tubing makes a good seal with spring return. This can be used to operate the trigger.

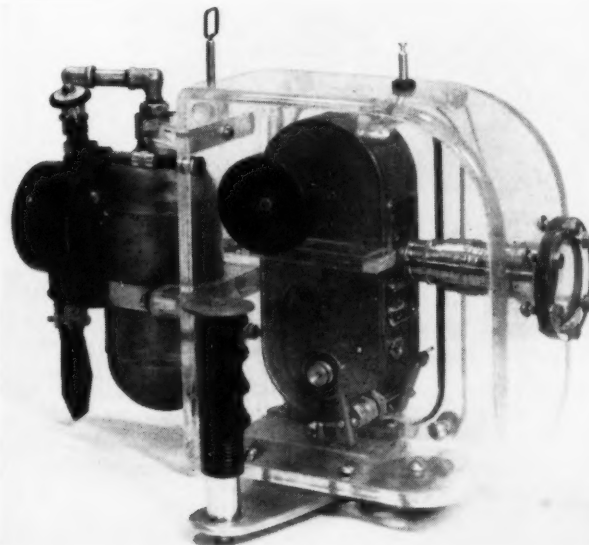
Exposures ranging from F-8 to wide open, at 16 frames per second are experienced, depending on depth, light and color of bottom, so an exposure meter is a must—as is color film to show the rich beauty of under sea life.

A type "A" filter with daylight color film helps reduce the blues on deep shots, but open up one more stop.

Peterson Bros. Plastics, 3834 N. Southport Avenue, Chicago 13, Illinois, supplied the plastic and solvent, are very cooperative and a good source—as is Norman Engineering, 2115 W. Marquette Road, Chicago 36, Illinois for "O" Rings.



Three views of cylindrical 8mm camera case as designed and outlined by C. W. Finkl, Chicago, Illinois



16mm Keystone underwater camera case and pressurizing unit designed and built by J. C. Harkness, Alameda, California



"Man the Lifeboats!!"

# California's Treasure Vault

By LIEUT. HARRY E. RIESEBERG

...A vast treasure still rests on the bottom of California's offshore waters, waiting for the intrepid adventurer and treasure-hunter who has the modern equipment and location to salvage it from out of the depths... a treasure sunk in one of California's worst catastrophies, and which has been long forgotten... hundreds of thousands of dollars is the prize which rests closeby and can be retrieved...

HUNTING treasure used to be just an adventure. Now it's big business. The adventure is still there—plenty of it—but it's adventure financed by hard-headed business men and yachtsmen who see huge profits ahead.

Lying at the bottom of every ocean, even of every large fresh water sea, are ships laden with gold, silver, jewels—and with modern cargoes worth even more than gold in some instances. Even California has its treasure ships resting beneath her coastal waters, some laden

with Spanish treasure, others with more recent riches.

One of these famous wrecks lies far up the northern coast of California, only nine miles from Crescent City—a most fascinating lure for the modern treasure-hunter who seeks to recover sunken riches. It is a true story of California's dramatic history, and embraces both drama and *real* treasure.

This richly-laden hulk is that of the old side-wheeler *Brother Jonathan*, which sailed out through San Francisco's Golden Gate on the afternoon of July 28, 1865. The steamer was en route to Portland and Victoria, with a passenger list of one hundred and nine persons, and a crew complement of fifty-four.

The old wooden tub had been in coast-wise service for nearly thirteen years, having been brought around the "Horn" from the East in 1852, by C. K. Garrison, to operate on the San Juan-San Francisco route along with the steamers *Cortez* and *Lewis*. These steamers were run in competition with the Pacific Mail service in

the Isthmus trade. The *Brother Jonathan*, at the time of her loss was the property of the California Steam Navigation Company.

Two days out of San Francisco—July 30, to be exact—the leaky old side-wheeler, before getting clear of the California coast, encountered a terrific sea, with its accompanying heavy gale from the northwest. The sea was running mountains high, the steamer making no headway whatever, when her master, Captain S. J. Wolfe, decided to turn back to a port and run for Crescent City—California's most northern port—and wait there until the storm had subsided.

The events that followed were set down most graphically by the reports of the few survivors. Suddenly the steamer crashed against an unseen pinnacle of the treacherous Seal Rocks, with such terrific force that it felled the passengers who were standing about the decks. The engines were quickly stopped and reversed, and efforts were made to back the ill-fated steamer off the rocks. But the engines could not budge the vessel, and for many minutes the steamer rolled and wallowed, for she could not free herself from the perilous position on the rocky pinnacles. Then, with a deep shudder, which ran from stem to stern, her timbers parted and one part of her keel came up alongside; the terrific sea and wind slewed her about so that her bow came into the wind and open sea, then working herself off the pinnacle. Her foremast went down through her bottom until the foreyard brought up across decks.

Captain De Wolfe ordered everybody to look out for themselves, but said that he would do his best for them under the conditions. Boats were immediately lowered over the ill-fated craft's sides, and were quickly swamped. The *Brother Jonathan* had met her doom, whatever might be the tragic fate of those aboard, and she foundered within less than an hour.

On board the *Brother Jonathan* was Brigadier-General George Wright, a passenger: he was last seen tying a life-preserver about his wife's waist as she had refused to enter one of the life-boats without her husband. They were lost, together. Another prominent passenger was William Logan, United States Indian agent, who was taking north with him a large consignment of gold for compensation to the Indians with whom the government had made treaties. Too, another passenger, though not related to William Logan, the Indian agent, was General Logan and his wife. General Logan was the distinguished and colorful general of the period, who made quite a name for himself as a famous Indian fighter of the



## Cayuse Indian Wars.

It was a strangely assorted fellowship whose names were listed on the records of the *Brother Jonathan's* passenger list. One, in particular and whose loss was deeply felt on the entire California coast at the time, was James Nesbit, "old newspaper drudge" of the famed *San Francisco Bulletin*. Nesbit, realizing that the steamer was going down and that there was no choice or chance of escape for him, calmly sat down on the deck, took out his pencil and paper and began to write. There the aged fingers of the *Bulletin's* ace reporter held the pencil for the last time, for he wrote his will, and the manuscript he carefully placed inside his shirt. His last "assignment" finished and "handed in" to his tired old heart, he lay back on the wet deck to die. In the midst of the wildest confusion such as the panic-stricken passengers were going through, to pass from the scene of life so sanely, his was an act which should ornament the pages of California's history for all time; an unforgettable example of the dignity and power of calmness in the face of calamity and doom.

Along with these notable passengers was a pitiful group of women who represented the darker side of life, in fact the notorious. They were in charge of a Mrs. J. C. Keenan, a "business woman," engaged in the "oldest profession." A reporter of the paper at the time, writing his report of the catastrophe, poetically described them as "*the seven soiled doves*." And, of the procuress, Mrs. Keenan, he explained that this "*hard-faced madame*" who accompanied the misguided girls was en route with them to the brothels of Portland and Seattle. Good women and bad, good men and bad, all sank into the relentless, impersonal sea together. It was one more disaster in which worth and worthlessness shared the same terrible fate—one more mystery beyond the comprehension of mankind.

Many of the passengers vanished beneath the sea together with the old unseaworthy steamer; but many were washed ashore by the subsiding sea after the storm abated; bodies were picked up everywhere along the sandy beaches. Most of them were identified; many were not.

And among those pulled in from the heavy surf was that of the "*hard-faced madame*," whose dead and stiffened fingers were grotesquely ablaze with five thousand dollars worth of jewels; these, the brazen emblems of her "*success*" in life were stripped from her fingers and sent to her relatives. Too, among the bodies, floating in the surf or washed up on the shore, were those of Brigadier-General George Wright, William Logan,

and the brave old newspaper veteran, James Nesbit—with his watersoaked will still safe against his now quiet old heart.

Only sixteen survivors managed to escape from the sunken steamer and made the safety of the shore. Nothing was left of the vessel itself but the steering-wheel, and this was later washed ashore at Crescent City, where, for many years it hung in Scovill's saloon on the wall over the huge bar.

The seafaring folk about Crescent City hold to a traditional estimate of the treasure-cargo of the *Brother Jonathan*, to be in the neighborhood of a half million or more dollars; however, more conservative and substantiated figures, based upon the actual shipping reports and those of the insurance underwriters such as the California Insurance, California Lloyd's, Mercantile, Mutual, Bigelow Brothers & Faulkner, Taylor & Company, furnished evidence that the actual amount of gold and silver carried down with the *Brother Jonathan* was \$335,000.

In recent years several unsuccessful attempts have been made to bring this small fortune in gold and silver treasure to the surface, from out of the hulk's remains, but in each of these ventures the would-be salvors with their crude and ordinary equipment and gear failed to accomplish any success. This has been due to their lack of the exact location of the resting-place of the wreck, the great depth—45 fathoms—270 feet of water, and their unscientific methods. Too, the exact resting-place of this rotting side-wheeler, with its unsalvaged and undisturbed gold and silver cache, has remained pretty much of a secret to all with the exception of one man; and he was the son of one of the eye-witnesses of that dreadful disaster of eighty-nine years ago. The location of the *Brother Jonathan* has been turned over to the author by the descendants of this eye-witness.

It is nearly a mile and-a-half from the pinnacle of the Seal Rocks group of coastal hazards which the ill-fated steamer struck. However, today her rotting timbers are, for the most part, strewn about on the sea's floor, and the treasure rests at a distance from the remains of the shattered hulk—on a sort of mesa or plateau near where the steamer first went down.

A golden treasure is still waiting for the modern salvor and treasure-hunter, with the ultra-modern devices and equipment capable of raising it to the light of day again, from out of the watery tomb of California's offshore waters where the *Brother Jonathan* went down in one of the West Coast's most terrible catastrophes. ➤

## the Hydrophone

By RICHARD CROSBY

It appears that diver Richard S. Ferg of the Bronx, New York, now holds the time record for being underwater during one continuous dive. On March 8, 1955, he completed a dive lasting 24 hours, 22 minutes, breaking Ed Fisher's previously held record of 24 hours, 3 minutes.

Using Aqua-Lungs and Divair single-tank units which were changed hourly, the 21-year-old Ferg about doubled the time his diving partner lasted. Cold water seeped into the tight dry-type suit worn by the other diver, Mike O'Daly, forcing his early surfacing after spending 12 and one-half hours underwater.

The dive was made in a big glass tank set up on the floor of the New York Sports and Vacation Show. With an audience crowding around most of the time, the divers were in 45-degree water despite room temperature air outside the tank. It measured 14 feet across and was 5 feet deep. Only long after diver O'Daly came out was a plumber able to warm up the water by connecting up a device known as a steam jenny. Towards the end of Ferg's dive the water reached as high as 96 degrees Fahrenheit.

Various liquids were fed to both divers through the use of a soft plastic squeeze bottle as used in infant feeding. This clever idea permitted a squeezing out of its contents without air or water displacement. The breathing mouthpiece had to momentarily be taken out underwater and nipple taken. Ferg asked for thick, undiluted chocolate syrup, while O'Daly drank tea.

Despite the grim determination of diver O'Daly to stick it out, an oversight on the part of the workmen who erected the tank permitted a sharp piece of wire to puncture O'Daly's left glove as he grasped the metal ladder leading into the water. Only hours after playing underwater chess with weighted chessmen against Ferg and a pretty blonde water-ski champion, who donned an Aqua-Lung and went into the tank unofficially to cheer the boys up, did O'Daly later notice that his arm was full of water. It was then only a question of time until the cold water sapped his body warmth forcing him to quit. Frantically the diver attendants outside sought to warm the water somehow, while O'Daly tried to tape his arm so water wouldn't saturate his underclothing upwards. The cold water won out.

During the very beginning of the show a television crew from the early morning Dave Garraway show known as Today set up lights and a camera around the glass tank while the announcer interviewed the divers by written messages. It was on the air three times. Although newspaper people came also throughout the dive, their coverage was a mockery of the idea, as well as being highly inaccurate in most cases. They failed to grasp just exactly what was going on. Only the New York Times made a realistic report.

The hours dragged on and diver Ferg hung still near the bottom of the tank. His extremely slow rate of air consumption worried all of us outside. His devoted girl friend Dian showed concern and stood close to the glass exchanging written messages on a white plastic slate with black crayon. Ferg often would become motionless, close his eyes, then calmly take out his mouthpiece and apparently stop breathing for nerve-wrackingly long periods of time.

Then Richard S. Ferg stepped up the ladder spitting out his mouthpiece and breathing uncompressed atmosphere for a change. Flashbulbs popped and eager hands congratulated him. Dian cried with joy and pride. A full day of soaking and bubbling was over, and I hoped Ed Fisher would take it well. Records are set only to be broken, and there will be another challenger soon, I thought.

# Florida Skin Divers Association

*Outline of a Program for Improving Public Understanding and Support of Underwater Spearfishing in Florida.*

This outline has been prepared by the Conservation Fund Committee of your state organization, triggered by the threat of restrictive state legislation. Although the immediate purpose is defensive, the program itself is designed as a long-range positive program of improving the public's understanding of our sport, and promoting it to ever-increasing acceptance as an outstanding hobby. It is not enough to do good — we have to tell about the good we do — if the public is to be interested in us and to support us in our goals.

*Alert All Members to the Immediate Threat to Our Sport.*

Through our meetings, regular and special, and through letters, bulletins and phone calls, we must alert our membership to the very real threat to our sport through restrictive laws which will be offered to the next session of our State Legislature. This is a very real danger — if such legislation is passed, spearfishing as we have known it will be outlawed or so restricted as to be materially affected.

Individual clubs would do well to contact their local Legislators and express their opposition to any such restrictive legislation.

*Solicitation of Contributions for the Conservation Fund of the State Association.*

In order to fight this threat, funds are needed for mailings, publicity, educational activities and organizational measures. Our Conservation Fund needs support from everyone involved: Individuals, Clubs, Manufacturers, Distributors of equipment and Sports publications.

We are asking each club to:

1. Solicit their own membership for individual contributions.
2. Plan and carry out some group fund raising activity such as a fish-fry supper, barbecues, supper dance, etc.
3. Actively solicit donations from all distributors of underwater equipment in

12 — MAY — SKIN DIVER

ICH DOTT YOU, HEIN-DRICK?? Cameraman meets cameraman in tropical underwater forest. Rollei-Marin underwater camera case with flash attachment



your club area. This is their fight, too. If such legislation is passed, they will be unable to sell this equipment in the future.

Donation checks should be made payable to the Conservation Fund Committee and mailed immediately to 906 No. Ocean Drive, Hollywood, Florida.

*Win a Three Day — Three Night Sailing — Diving Trip to Bimini Islands.*

This trip goes to the club turning in the largest amount exceeding \$300. Please send in each contribution as it is collected so we can send out bulletins and keep track of which club is leading. Any additional members may go at a cost of \$65 per person.

JUNE 1ST IS THE DEADLINE. All donations to count for the trip must be in at this time. The Malabar V accommodates women as well as men.

ED TOWNSEND  
Conservation Fund Committee  
906 North Ocean Drive  
Hollywood, Florida

## DONATIONS TO FSDA CONSERVATION FUND

(April 14), 1955)

Dr. John Quinn  
The Skin Diver Magazine  
Fenjohn Underwater Photo & Equipment Co.  
U. S. Divers Corp.  
Gustav Dalla Valle  
Mar Mac Industries  
Sharks Adventurers Club  
EDCO (Engineering Development Corp.)  
Fred W. Logan  
Sarasota Sand Sharks  
Key Cudas  
U.A.S. Divemaster, Chicago  
RKO Pictures  
Florida Skin Divers Headquarters Inc., Homestead  
Sea-Horse Outboard Sales and Service, Homestead  
Panama City Skin Divers, Panama City  
Miami Neptunes, Miami  
Total received to date, \$975.00.

# Public Service Rendered

April 1, 1955

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE  
CITY OF NATIONAL CITY  
NATIONAL CITY, CALIF.

Gentlemen:

We are taking the liberty of writing to you and to publicly thank Richard F. Ridenour, Bob Wedgewood and Danny Stephens, who are members of the La Jolla Skinsters for their assistance to this Department on March 5, 1955. We requested their assistance to search the bottom of the Bay near the San Diego Rowing Club where coins, watches and other miscellaneous property had been thrown by two men who had been arrested for the crime of burglary.

Through the cooperation and sincere effort put forth by the men mentioned above, a great deal of the stolen property was recovered and it was only through the splendid cooperation and assistance that this could be accomplished.

We are enclosing a photograph of the three men and trust that you will find space in your publication to inform the public and other members of such organizations of the outstanding work done by these three individuals.

We greatly appreciate their cooperation and assistance in this matter and if at any time we can be of service to you or members of any of the Skin Diving organizations, please feel free to call upon us.

*Very truly yours,*

H. D. SMITH  
Chief of Police

THE WEAKER SEX? Ellen Rogers again disproves this ancient idea by landing a 12-lb. bull lobster at Flat Rock, Palos Verdes, Calif. Photo by J. Ward



## DEADLINE

For all tickets purchased for the "Skin Divers Jamboree," August 15, 1954. These tickets which are good for admission to Marineland of the Pacific, must be used before the final date of August 1, 1955 or be considered null and void. The date again, AUGUST 1, 1955.

England . . .

## UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB

By H. PENMAN

The Club was the first major underwater sport and science body to be formed in Great Britain, and an international membership of several hundreds includes many of the best known undersea sportsmen, authors, scientists, and photographers of the world. M. Jean Foucher-Creteau of France, Dr. Bruno Vailati, leader of the Italian Underwater Expedition to the Red Sea, Dr. "Barney" and Mrs. Jane Crile of America, are among those who have lectured and shown their films and photographs to the members.

As early as November, 1953, the Club aroused the interest of the Admiralty, and has been honoured to receive a letter from the Secretary of the Admiralty on behalf of the Lords Commissioners, confirming this interest.

The club offers to everyone, from the enthusiast who only wishes to dive for sport and recreation to the expert who wishes to engage in serious submarine research, the opportunity to enjoy and gain experience in every form of underwater exploration.



BOB WEDGEWOOD and diving companions Danny Stephens and Richard Ridenour examine stolen articles they recovered for the National City Police Department



# 1955 Underwater Spearfishing Championships

The Pacific Coast Championships have been arranged for July 17, 1955. All Regional Association finals are scheduled for July 3, 1955, in order to allow time for distant teams in the other Associations on the Pacific Coast and Atlantic Coasts to obtain sponsors to travel to their respective Championships.

According to the plan scheduled in the January issue of the *Skin Diver* magazine, each of the Associations on the Pacific and Atlantic Coasts are eligible to send one out of every four competing teams or less in their Associations to the Pacific and Atlantic Coast Underwater Spearfishing Championships on July 17th at Laguna Beach and in the New York area.

The winners of the South West Pacific Border Association Championships do not have to attend the Pacific Coast Underwater Spearfishing Championships in order to compete at the Nationals.

The Southern Pacific Association, A.A.U., that includes the Los Angeles area, is the only one of the 47 Associations that has so many clubs that it is necessary to hold eliminations before the July 3rd finals. The Southern Pacific Association finals are also scheduled for July 3rd in the Palos Verdes area near Los Angeles.

We should like to have notice of who your regional contestants will be at the Championships as soon as possible. Please send the results to Ralph N. Davis, 736 Micheltorena Street, Los Angeles 26, California, as well as copies to the various magazines for publicity for your Association Championships.

Underwater Spearfishing and skin diving competitions help point the way for suggested changes in rules. Such changes, after sufficient study in various underwater spearfishing competitions, should be submitted to the National A.A.U. Underwater Spearfishing Director who has not yet been appointed. Suggested changes are then studied and subsequently submitted at the National Convention held in the fall of each year.

Rules for Underwater Spearfishing Championships Competition leading to the Nationals are rigidly maintained in order to give Underwater Spearfishing the soundness and prestige it deserves as a National sport.

(Please check your 1953 *Skin Diver* magazines for the standard rules used at all Land Based Underwater Spearfishing Championships.)

Trophies and/or medals are given for the first three teams at Association Cham-

## Pacific Coast Junior Underwater Spearfishing Championships Sunday, June 26, 1955

Sponsored by the Boy's Club of Laguna Beach and the Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the International Underwater Spearfishing Association, under sanction of the A.A.U.

Registration: Laguna Beach Boy's Club, 175 N. Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, California.

All organized clubs and sponsored teams on the Pacific Coast are cordially invited to send their Junior competitors, age 12 to 15 years inclusive, to the Third Annual Pacific Coast Junior Underwater Spearfishing Championships.

Signed: Dolphins, Nisei Kelptanglers, Aqua Guards, William Anderson, Director of Boy's Club, Laguna Beach; Ross Frisbie, President, Laguna Beach Junior Chamber of Commerce; Patrick O'Malley, Director Underwater Spearfishing, S.P.A.A.U.; Ralph Davis, General Chairman, National Championships Committee of the IUSA.

The Aqua Guards have been appointed Official Safety Committee for all S.P.A.A.U. sanctioned underwater championships by member skin diving clubs.

pionships. A plaque or trophy is given for the Individual Aggregate and for the Largest Single Catch, which may be a shark, skate, ray or fish. We believe that a large shark or ray adds greatly to the spectator value of a meet. At every U. S. Championships except one, the largest single catch has always been a shark or ray.

The rumor that there is a move being made to change the rules to those used in International meets is true to this extent. After two or three years of observation and practice of new rules at local competitions of various foreign championships, the soundness or weakness of changes are brought to light. We believe that a sound step has been taken at the European Championships by going back to the basic rules used in the United States since 1950: (three man teams and total weight instead of points.) You will notice that our original five club committee in 1950 added: "Except in team competition" to the 3rd International Rule. It is now my opinion and the opinion of those who know the competitive sport of Underwater Spearfishing best, that we made an error by allowing assistance in team competition. However, we approach any suggested changes with great caution after the European countries were forced by their enlarged area to return to the rules that were first outlined in 1950. R. N. Davis Gen Chmn.

## NEW YORKERS NOTE

The New York State hook and line striped bill was defeated in this session of the State Legislature, but is sure to come up again and again in the future. The question of this bill is whether a spear such as we use, would be classified as a hook, since it has a barb, and is attached to a line. Unless we are successful in having this bill changed, to permit spearfishing, we'll probably have to initiate a test case to determine officially just what our status is. Another bill has been introduced in the Legislature, aimed at the fellows who are jack-lighting fish at night. They use a powerful light, and spear fish from a boat. Obviously they are not "spearfishermen" as we use the term, but the proposed bill would make it "illegal to spear fish", etc., and it looks like we are unwittingly caught in the middle. The bill is not aimed at us, as a matter of fact the sponsor of the bill probably does not even know of "Spearfishermen" (underwater), but as I understand it, we will come under its jurisdiction since we do use spears. Naturally, we are fighting this bill in every way we know.

— Norman H. Schiff, L. I. Dolphins

### ATTENTION SKIN DIVERS IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AREA:

The Steinhart Aquarium is holding another open house for skin divers and their friends.

On May 11, 1955 at 8:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M., at the Steinhart Aquarium located in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, the San Francisco Diving Club, with the aid of Dr. Earl Herald, Curator of Steinhart Aquarium, will present a lecture on diving physics by Dr. Ralph W. Brauer. Dr. Brauer will speak on such subjects as bends, oxygen poisoning, air embolism, etc. These subjects are of interest to all divers. We are planning to have movies too, so plan to come.

For further information contact:  
Dick Shankel, President  
San Francisco Diving Club  
209 Steiner Street  
San Francisco, Calif.

## RULES OF COURTESY

as

Adopted by the "Neptune Club, Miami"

1. DO NOT SPEAR FISH WITHIN 500 feet of an anchored boat.
2. DO NOT clean or display your catch at or on the docks.
3. DO return all rented or loaned equipment in at least as good condition as you received it.
4. DO absolutely comply with the Monroe County law which prohibits spearfishing within one mile of the overseas highway.

These simple rules of courtesy will be observed by all members of the Neptune Club and it is hoped by non-members as well.

# Toyko Divers Seek Information

"The Skin Diver"

Box 128

Lynwood, California

Dear Sir:

We are students who operate, here in Japan, an association, and who are greatly concerned about Skin Diving.

For the present, in Japan, no one ever plays it, as a sport. We are, accordingly, having every intention to take it up from your country, though we know nothing about it.

Therefore, we would appreciate it very much if you would give us various information such as:

All available instructions, where and who can we order equipment from, prices, organizational procedures and all other pertinent information available to you on this sport of skin diving.

Thanking you in advance, we remain,

Yours truly,

HIROYUKI HOSHI, Committee,  
c/o Wakabayashi  
#1534, 1-chome, Itabashi-  
machi, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo



GIANT BLACK BASS—610 lbs. speared by by Victor Wellisch at Cabo Frio, Brazil.

Book Review ...

## UNDERWATER

By BILL BARADA

After several years of casting his bait into the waters, and reeling in only a wet hook, Bill Barada came to the conclusion one day that fishing with a rod and reel was not for him.

Recognized as one of the world's foremost experts in this sport, Barada has combined his experience and know-how into an easy reading, excitingly illustrated book called "Underwater." Written for the expert and beginner alike, "Underwater" takes the reader from the earliest days of skin diving, through its evolution into modern day practices. Dotted throughout are "how - to - do - it" articles, including information on making a rubber suit for cold weather diving, constructing a simple hand spear, and how to make an effective rubber gun.

An interesting chapter is devoted to adventures by some of the country's top divers, including one by Earl Warren Jr. Earl's most exciting adventure has to do with the first time he went underwater alone, and is one of personal triumph over the fear of the unknown. Earl has been one of the foremost exposers of "old maid" superstitions regarding so-called "monsters of the deep," and has cleared up many an outdated idea concerning this fascinating world beneath the sea.

Barada presents much needed information in this book regarding basic equipment, including the advantages and disadvantages of the various types of underwater guns. Here, the reader is given data by an expert on the uses and capabilities of underwater gear. This important subject is treated in a simple, straightforward manner, telling the reader exactly how to use the equipment he selects, from flippers and goggles, to spears and rubber guns.

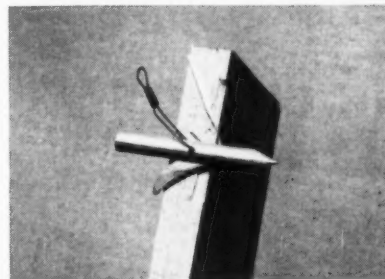
Many people have the impression that all of the diving done in this country is carried on in ocean waters, with the prime idea being the spearing of fish. However, fresh water lakes play a huge part in this country's skin diving picture, and Barada brings out the fact that just the thrill of gliding effortlessly along a lake bottom, viewing the beauties of underwater life, is, in itself, a pleasure that will not long be forgotten. Many divers spend their time in the profitable business of salvaging fishing gear which is lost by the carload each year in our lakes and rivers.



PROMINENT California organizer and "Underwater" author, Bill Barada

Underwater photography is another fascinating hobby for divers the world over, and one of the country's top photographers tells how to get the best in underwater pictures.

Other data devoted to underwater hunting, safety, use of breathing apparatus, and a state by state roundup on skin diving activities, will give the reader a practical and comprehensive outlook on this new world found beneath the surface—where weight is no more and beauty unlimited.



Western Jet Manta Mark II spear-guns now in production with increased power and penetration using standard CO<sub>2</sub> soda siphon cartridge. Photograph shows results of underwater tests at 15 foot range with the ½ lb. steel shaft of the Jet Manta II. ¾ inch thick pine target panel split apart as tempered head smashed completely through target board. The easy loading Jet Manta CO<sub>2</sub> guns provide tremendous power and penetration with no loading effort, the guns can be loaded with simple finger action at any time in or under water. Specifications: Corrosion resistant anodized aluminum and steel construction; ½ lb. ¾ inch steel shaft eliminates bending, tempered self-detaching barb head carries 150 lb. test nylon line; automatic line release reel and other features provide unequalled handling and operating ease. Produced by Western Tool and Sales Company, Westminster, California.

# Octopi Bites

By JOHN A. MCGOWAN

Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
La Jolla, California

In reference to the recent letter in "Skin Diver" concerning a lethal Octopus bite I would like to draw to the attention of all your readers two recent scientific publications on Octopus bites and human beings.

In 1949 Dr. Bruce Halstead of the School of Tropical Medicine at Loma Linda, Cal. reported on two case histories of such bites. The clinical symptoms were: "tingling sensation, abnormally profuse bleeding, and possible dizziness." He also says that "the degree to which the saliva varies in potency among the various species and sizes of cephaloids is not known."

In 1954 Dr. S. Stillman Berry and Bruce Halstead gave a second report on this subject in which four case histories were discussed. Again the symptoms were similar. However, the last paragraph of the article which I quote in full should be of particular interest to skin divers:

"Here the extremely small size of the octopus involved (apparently a juvenile which would be quite a bit larger at maturity) is particularly remarkable in view of the extensive clinical phenomena described, and seems to be quite without parallel. One may assume that a bite by an animal which had attained its full proportions might be productive of no small inconvenience to the person bitten. Indeed, should such a species as the gigantic octopods of the west American and Japanese coasts prove to possess venomous properties at all proportionate to their formidable size, the danger

In the English Channel . . .

## Guernsey Island

By W. HILL

Guernsey is one of the larger Channel Islands, which are part of the British Isles, and are situated twenty miles off the west side of the Cherbourg peninsula, France. The island is only about six miles wide and four miles from north to south, but it is bounded by a great variety of coastline and underwater scenery.

To the south are granite cliffs with small coves and some very rugged reefs. The water here is very deep, too deep for any but the most experienced divers. To the west and north the coast is flat and long reefs stretch for up to a mile out to sea, while on the east coast calmer waters and less rugged scenery are found.

The fish are neither large nor plentiful, but provide very good sport. The most common are the rockfish or Wrasse. These have been known to reach a weight of twelve pounds, but the largest as yet caught by harpoon weighed seven and a

to a diver from entanglement with one of them may be of a different character and potentially much more serious than even the imaginative writers of popular sea yarns have conceived. Certainly until more precise information becomes available the possible consequences of such a bite should not be regarded lightly. It may be a fortunate circumstance that the larger animals encountered appear so rarely prone to bite or perhaps that people are by the nature of things less inclined to fondle and provoke them."

half pounds. The most worth while of the native fish is the conger eel. The largest so far caught by harpoon weighed fifteen pounds, but they can reach up to a hundred pounds. Skate are frequently seen and the island abounds in mullet and bass which are very difficult to spear. Lobster are quite common and one specialty of the island is the ormer. This shellfish is, I believe, much like the American abalone, but only reaches a width of five or six inches. Its value as a delicacy can be estimated by the fact that they can be sold for up to \$1 per dozen.

Spearfishing really got going here in 1953, although at least two spearfishermen were operating before then. By the end of 1954 it is estimated that there were about fifty operating. There is no club, although attempts have been made to form one, however there can be distinguished five main groups with numerous "lone wolves."

We started off in 1953 with hand-spears, usually made of alloy. The only person to catch any worthwhile amount of fish in that summer was Nigel Froome, who is still by far Guernsey's best spearfisherman, his total catch coming to twice that of his closest rival in 1954.

During the winter of 1953-54 we all busily made harpoon guns powered either by rubber strands or air-rifle springs. Naturally our hunting techniques improved with experience and some quite nice catches were made. Nigel Froome had a total of 392-lbs. of fish, his biggest being a 12-lb. conger, and his highest total for one day being 30-lbs. I was lucky enough to get 190-lbs. During the year, only one other, Ralph O'Toole having over 100-lbs., however half a dozen of my companions got from 50- to 100-lbs., mostly caught at the end of the summer. Swarms of beginners, locally called "tadpoles," turned up with the occasional fish.

At least one aqua-lung is owned by Mr. McCathy, while four of us built rebreathers. Two of these belonging to Nigel Froome and Johnny Tongs worked and were often used, though not for hunting. David Kreckeler's needs minor alterations while mine, being of a unique design is still in the experimental stage. The use of underwater cameras (home made) is also still only experimental although one or two prints have been obtained.

The year 1954 was exceptionally bad with regard to the weather and many hunting hours were lost due to cold or murkiness. The water here rarely reaches 60°F. even in the summer and usually three-quarters of an hour is too long to stay in. Catches should improve very much in 1955 as four of us are buying rubber suits and everyone is improving his gun and trying to convince himself that the weather in 1955 could not possibly be worse than it was in 1954.



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## California Council of Diving Clubs

By BILL BARADA

Your Council is happy to report that our bills on abalone and lobsters were voted out of the Assembly Fish and Game Commission with a "do pass" recommendation. Our bill on lung air was postponed for one week and it is doubtful if results of the new hearing will be available in time for this issue.

The abalone bill sets a new precedent for cooperation between commercial divers and the processors and skin divers. It has become an all too familiar pattern in California and in other states to find sportsmen and commercial fishermen in all out opposition to each other. In the past, this has also been true of skin divers and commercial abalone divers. This year was entirely different and if the pattern established at the Legislature this time can be continued, a new era of cooperation between the two groups will be realized.

Last year, the California Department of Fish and Game held hearings along the coast to determine legislation necessary to insure conservation of our abalone. After the hearings, bills were drawn up which both skin divers and commercial divers agreed to support. These bills were introduced by the Council of Diving Clubs and supported by the California Wildlife Federation.

In spite of the agreed cooperation between all parties, a renegade commercial diver in San Diego went all out in opposition to the bills. For a little while, sportsmen thought this was a move by the organized commercial divers going back on their word but when the bills came up for hearing in committee, the commercial men were there supporting the bill right along with the sportsmen. A letter from the renegade from San Diego opposing the bill was laughed off the floor.

This action proves once again that skin divers can work in cooperation with both

## COUNCIL OF DIVING CLUBS of California

MEETING MAY 18, 1955

8:00 P.M.

Long Beach Y.M.C.A.

(North Room)

6th and American Avenues  
Long Beach, California

line fishermen and commercial divers if both sides make an attempt to compromise. Our oceans are plenty large enough to support all of our activities if we use a little common sense.

The Council extends its thanks to Barney Clancey and his group for the cooperation on this bill.

\* \* \* \*

At the last meeting of the Council it was decided to take in individual memberships. The reasoning behind this move makes sense. Our organization is attempting to speak for all skin divers in California and it is unfair to limit our membership only to those divers who belong to clubs. Individual divers are just as anxious to preserve and improve our sport as the clubs, but in the past, they have had no way to lend their support. Now, with a \$1.00 membership, they can lend financial aid which is badly needed by the Council and have a voice in our affairs. All votes will still be by clubs only but all divers are welcome to attend Council meetings and put in their two cents worth on any issue they are interested in. Council directors are always happy to receive and consider proposals from any member whether he is an individual or a club. If you are not a club member, send your dues to Council of Diving Clubs, 352 Smith Street, Long Beach and you will receive your membership card. Keep California in the lead by supporting the organization which put us there in the first place. ➤

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TOP—Dr. Robert Keast holding up impaled target after underwater gun demonstration at Marin County Sports Show, March 1955, California

CENTER—Sub-Mariner Bill Sizle with 65-lb. diamond sting ray taken at Corona del Mar, California. Photo by Dennis Starleaf

BOTTOM—Brian Shannon of the Long Beach, Calif. Junior Neptunes

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creatures in their natural habitat and showing some action if possible. Information is also needed from personal experience with these animals on their danger to man. Send information with pictures to: Frank W. Lane, FZS, 116 Evelyn Avenue, Ruislip, Mdx., England.

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# South AFRICA

By CEDRIC WRIGHT

Skin diving—and its allied sport of spearfishing—began to get a hold in South Africa about seven or eight years ago, and within a few years had grown to the status of a major sport with about 2,000 enthusiastic followers.

It has taken a particularly strong hold in the temperate seas of the Cape of Good Hope—centered around Cape Town—where the seas teem with the smaller varieties of bottom-feeding fish, shellfish such as abalone (known locally as "perlemoen") and members of the shark and ray families.

The biggest catches recorded to date are: edible fish, 50-lb.; inedible, 160-lb. (gully shark).

We have had many retarding influences on the sport here, the chief of which are the scarcity of equipment due to import control, and the high price of equipment, nearly all of which is imported from European countries such as France and Germany.

For comparison with prices in the U.S.A., we pay £2 (5.69) for flippers, £7 10s. (\$20) for an "Arbalet" type gun, and between £30 (84) and £100 (280) for breathing apparatus, the French Aqua-lung costing just under £100.

In spite of all this the sport has gone ahead and about a dozen active clubs, some of them with a very big membership, populate the secluded beaches on our coasts at week-ends. We have been fortunate in that there has been only one serious accident with a speargun so far and only two diving fatalities, both of them

caused through faulty and home-made breathing apparatus.

In the speargun accident a gun went off by accident on shore and went through the side of the chest of the fellow holding it.

He calmly detached the barb and pulled the spear out, and two days later I saw him driving a car, so it could not have been too bad!

Our spearfishermen are as free as the air, for the Government has not imposed any restrictive legislation on our activities. Nor does it intend doing so. The only restrictions are those imposed by individual clubs, such as limits on the size of fish to be shot, and regulations designed to confine spearfishermen to beaches and coastal strips away from bathers and anglers. We don't want to stir up trouble!

The bigger catches here at the Cape are made up chiefly of sharks and rays, weighing between 40-lb. and 100-lb. It is seldom that we find edible fish bigger than 10-lb. in weight in the inshore areas, although in the warmer sub-tropical waters of Durban, East London and Port Elizabeth, on our east coast, the fish are bigger and include types similar to the grouper family.

Our clubs include big regional clubs with a vast membership, and smaller "groups"—with membership usually limited to 10. Some of the more important clubs, with their approximate membership, are: False Bay Spearfishing Club (Cape Town) with 100 members; the South Atlantic Underwater Club (Cape Town) 80 members; the Neptunes (Cape Town) 10 members; the Swordfishers (Cape Town) 10 members; the Dolphins (Port Elizabeth) 60 members; the Border Underwater Club (East London) 60 members; and the Durban Underwater Club (Durban) 150 members.

A big aspect of skin diving in South



A group of young commercial perleman (abalone) divers on board their boat after making a haul of abalone off the Cape Town Coast using skin diving methods. This industry has suffered in recent months due to the importing of U.S.A., Mexican and Japanese abalone.

Africa has been the development of an abalone-canning industry at Cape Town. This industry relied entirely on skin divers, at first with primitive equipment and later with Aqua-Lungs, to bring in abalone from the seabed. At one time it became a boom industry here, with about 80 professional skin divers taking part, and most of them working from boats. I and many of my friends gave up our "white-collar" jobs to go diving for a time, just for the fun of it. It certainly was fun, but pretty risky as well. Five of our companions were drowned, most of them through becoming entangled in deep-water kelp.

The abalone industry has largely petered out here now, owing chiefly to competition from Mexico, the U.S.A. and Japan, who produce a more palatable type of abalone. After a boom lasting for about 18 months, there are now only two factories still operating, each with one or two boats. At least four boats were wrecked during operations, and the divers and crews escaped in all cases except one, where three young skin divers were drowned.

The Cape Town area is known as the "Cape of Storms," and for that reason most of our diving is confined to the summer months. The clubs are stimulating interest among members in marine biology and underwater photography. We are not however, having much success with photos because our water is not clear. Many of the club memberships have been whittled down as all but the real enthusiasts drop off, and we have been left with a hard core of regulars who take part in competitions and go diving right through the year in water which reaches 45 degrees Fahrenheit in winter—and they do it without rubber suits!

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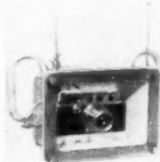
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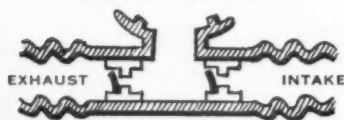
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## Step-Up An Active Public Relations Program

1. Appoint one member to act as Public Relations Chairman for your club with the responsibility of keeping the local newspapers and radio stations informed of club activities.

2. Send announcements of your meetings, expeditions, social affairs, elections, etc., to the newspapers and radio-remember to give names, addresses, place of meeting, title of organizations, activity dates. Include some reference to the growing popularity of this relatively new sport.

3. Look for human interest stories—family projects, interesting wrecks, recovery of lost articles, unusual catches, and send a resumé to the editors.

4. Where possible provide the local editor with 8 x 10 glossy photographs of activities with a factual descriptive caption.

5. Cultivate local editors, particularly fishing editors, spend a few minutes chatting with them when you drop in with a story or photo, invite them to your affairs and make a special point of inviting them along on an unusually interesting expedition.

6. Get your speakers to accent the following points in talks before local groups:

(a) Conservation—Underwater spearfishing enthusiasts are conservation minded—do not kill for the sake of killing—spear selectively, which other sportsfishermen can do—limit their catch to those they can eat—try not to interfere with rod and line fishermen.

(b) Service—Underwater spearfishing enthusiasts render valuable community service by being able to recover lost articles, investigate underwater conditions, special assignments for coast guard and other governmental agencies.

(c) Everyman's sport—Equipment costs are low for skin diving, and fishing areas are everywhere. It is a sport for everyone who swims and that includes nearly everyone.—F.S.D.A.

FLYING SOUTH from Compton, California to Bahia De Los Angeles; on the Gulf side of Baja, California. This rugged coastline has tremendous diving areas, but are accessible only by plane or boat. Pilots Fred Brodbeck and Harold Wyson check coastline and maps as the three divers (Hoss, Blakeslee and Auxier in rear seat) sleep the time away. Guide and skipper checks ahead for diving grounds. The very comfortable Hotel, El Biltmore, where delicious meals of turtle steak, quail and venison, can be had at your request. Meals are only \$1.00 each. Pilot Brodbeck, and host Antero Diaz help Jim Auxier (Editor S. D.) with a few grouper speared nearby. Truck used to make the weekly trip to Ensenada for supplies. This 225 miles must be quite rough as it takes four days for a round trip.

22—MAY—SKIN DIVER



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## Max Noel Lowest Bidder On Sunken Motor Ship Prins Willem V

By KENNETH C. FUTTERLIEB

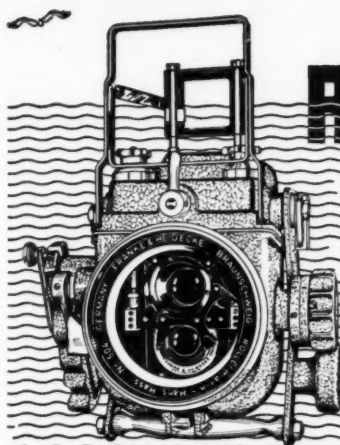
MILWAUKEE, WISC., April 5, 1955.—It has just been announced that Max Nohl, famed diver and salvage authority, was the lowest bidder on the raising of the sunken Dutch ship the *Prins Willem V*.

The *Willem*, a 270 foot Oranje Line Diesel Motor Ship out of Rotterdam, was struck in a collision with a Sinclair Refining Company barge at 7:15 P.M. on October 14, 1954. She sank at 8:30 P.M. in 70 feet of water in Lake Michigan, four miles off the Milwaukee Harbor entrance light and is now reposing at a list of 90° on her starboard side. She was carrying a wide variety of cargo, including hides, leather, machinery, air cooled engines, and countless other items, a large part of which offer good salvage potential. The general cargo included such diversified items as trombones, juke boxes, chemicals, overhead garage doors, tools, television tubes, outboard motors and automobile parts.

Max Nohl, a prominent submarine engineer, as well as President of the American Diving Equipment Company of Milwaukee announced that he planned to float the sunken ship and her cargo by means of air. He has developed a unique method of accomplishing this without risk of imposing undue strain on the framing or hull of the rising vessel. Nohl's bid was publicly announced at \$50,000 (Government pay Nohl). The United States Corps of Engineers is primarily interested in removal of the hull as a potential menace to navigation. As she now lies, her port side is 31 feet under the surface. It is interesting to note that the bid specifications provide that a clear title to the ship and its entire contents will go to Nohl, in addition to the \$50,000 contractual payment, as soon as the job is completed. The formal contract award will be made by the United States Corps of Engineers in Washington.

The Oranje Line abandoned the ship to the insurance company, Lloyds of London, and the later, in turn, abandoned her to the United States Corps of Engineers. With the coming of the new St. Lawrence Seaway she will obviously be a menace to navigation as deeper draft vessels come into the Great Lakes.

Readers may be interested to know that a number of divers will be required for this job. Any interested and qualified person is invited to write Nohl at the American Diving Equipment Company, Box 871, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



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## MEL'S



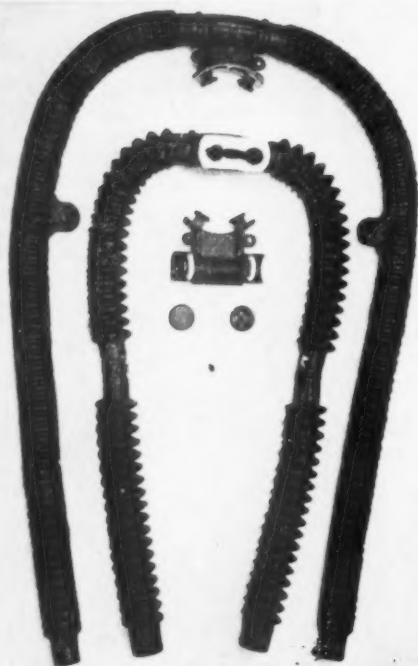
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## **Women To Get Skin Diving Instruction**

Can women and girls take skin diving instruction at the Y.M.C.A.? The answer is definitely 'yes' at the Long Beach Y.M.C.A.—in the special class to be held in May for women and girls and husbands and wives.

There are more and more women and girls taking to the great sport of skin diving and it is just as important that they get the proper instruction before they venture forth into unknown waters as it is for men and boys. Realizing this factor arrangements have been made to conduct a short term class of six (6) weeks duration under the able guidance of 'Y' Skin Diving instructor, Rory Page. The class will meet on Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. starting Wednesday, May 11, 1955.

There will be both lecture and practical work in the course with the major emphasis put on the practical work in the water—because of the limited time. The class will be open only to individual women and girls and husbands and wives or boy friends and girl friends as couples. Individual men will not be accepted since there is a new class for them on Monday nights at the 'Y'.

Those women and girls who are interested in this new class on skin diving should contact Al Fish, Physical Director of the Long Beach Y.M.C.A. (phone 72737) at once to make the necessary arrangements. The class will be limited to 36 persons. All members of the class will furnish their own suits, towels, face masks, fins, snorkels and under water breathing apparatus for the course.

This is an open invitation for all women and girls within the Long Beach area to participate in the newly formed co-ed skin diving class. Summer is almost here and you will want to be prepared for those many week-ends of skin diving in Southern California.

**SAN LEANDRO, CALIF.** — Bill Gault, a Lieut. in the recently formed Alameda County Underwater Rescue Unit, and members of his team plunged into a nearby lake in an attempt to find a lost child. Gault and the divers used lungs and skin diving suits, went to a depth of 70 feet, then the heavy underwater pressure induced a nose bleed. All through the night, for a period of 15 hours, the operation continued under glaring lights and flares. At one time more than 300 spectators watched as the divers and firemen sought the body. The divers, throughout the operation, were hampered by the lake's dark waters. With no reflection from the dark bottom, they could not see their hands before them.

# STANDARD TECHNIQUE FOR EXECUTING THE BACK PRES- SURE — ARM LIFT METHOD OF ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION

## POSITION OF THE SUBJECT

1. Place the subject in the face down, prone position. Bend his elbows and place the hands one upon the other. Turn his face to one side, placing the cheek upon his hands.

## POSITION OF THE OPERATOR

2. Kneel on either the right or left knee at the head of the subject facing him. Place the knee at the side of the subject's head close to the forearm. Place the opposite foot near the elbow. If it is more comfortable, kneel on both knees, one on either side of the subject's head. Place your hands upon the flat of the subject's back in such a way that the heels lie just below a line running between the armpits. With the tips of the thumbs just touching, spread the fingers downward and outward.

## COMPRESSION PHASE

3. Rock forward until the arms are approximately vertical and allow the weight of the upper part of your body to exert slow, steady, even pressure downward upon the hands. This forces air out of the lungs. Your elbows should be kept straight and the pressure exerted almost directly downward on the back.

## POSITION FOR EXPANSION PHASE

4. Release the pressure, avoiding a final thrust, and commence to rock slowly backward. Place your hands upon the subject's arms just above his elbows.

## EXPANSION PHASE

5. Draw his arms upward and toward you. Apply just enough lift to feel resistance and tension at the subject's shoulders. Do not bend your elbows, and as you rock backward the subject's arms will be drawn toward you. Then drop the arms to the ground. This completes the full cycle. The arm lift expands the chest by pulling on the chest muscles, arching the back, and relieving the weight on the chest.

The cycle should be repeated 12 times per minute at a steady, uniform rate. The compression and expansion phases should occupy about equal time; the release periods being of minimum duration.

## ADDITIONAL RELATED DIRECTIONS:

It is all important that artificial respiration, when needed, be started quickly. There should be a slight inclination of the body in such a way that fluid drains better from the respiratory passage. The head of the subject should be extended, not flexed forward, and the chin should not sag lest obstruction of the respiratory passages occur. A check should be made to ascertain that the tongue or foreign objects are not obstructing the passages. These aspects can be cared for when placing the subject into position or shortly thereafter, between cycles. A smooth rhythm in performing artificial respiration is desirable, but split-second timing is not essential. Shock should receive adequate attention, and the subject should remain recumbent after resuscitation until seen by a physician or until recovery seems assured.

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New York . . .

## LONG ISLAND DOLPHINS INC.

By AL HOFFMAN

We had the pleasure of meeting editor Jim Auxier of the "Skin Diver" at the Jamaica Sportsman Show where we had our booth. He was ably assisted by Richard "Hydrophone" Crosby who had his usual interesting tales of the sea, diving and treasure. The New York Sportsman show had a tank where equipment was demonstrated by Dolphins and others. The water here at first was around 36° and rubber suits were needed. One young lady in a leopard Bikini suit dived in without testing the temperature and when she emerged her goosebumps were so prominent you couldn't tell where her suit ended and she began. Chuck Balfour of the L.I. Sandfleas and our Mike O'Daly planned an underwater endurance test, but after Chuck was laid up with a virus, Dick Ferg of the Dolphins substituted. Due to a leaky suit, Mike emerged 12 hours later. Dick stayed on until he completed 24 hours and 21 minutes under water. He was amused by other divers who played chess, etc., with him. Among these was "Hydrophone" Crosby and Gordon Groves of the Dolphins. Dick's first remarks when he came out was, "Never again." We'll see.

The East Coast Underwater Spearfishing Association Dinner we sponsored was another highlight of the year. The guest speakers and movies were topped off by an excellent film of Howell Conant of the Pinder Brothers in Florida.

At this writing, no appreciable amount of large fish have been seen in our ocean fronts. The writer and another Dolphin dived in the middle of this month, but nary a fish was seen in the 28° water. They should be in soon—we hope.

Local enthusiasts are invited to our meetings that include lectures and films the first Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. at the Flushing Bay Motor Club.



**BERNARD CAMPOI** of Cresskill, New Jersey submitted the above pictures taken at the recent sports show in the Kingsbridge Armory, New York City. The photo shows the booths of the Long Island Dolphins and the Underwater Fishermen of New Jersey and the attending members. Next comes the "Skin Diver" booth, manned by Richard Crosby and the bottom of the tank and the divers during the underwater endurance test. Divers Dick Ferg and Mike O'Daly attracted many spectators during their stay underwater. See Hydrophone column for details on this dive.

**APALACHEE AQUA CLUB** Emergency Aqua Club stands behind Ed Miller as he receives the Honorary Deputy cards from Leon County (Florida) Sheriff Bill Joyce. This team was called out to search for a body only two days after it was formed. Photo by Burton McNeely.

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## CHICAGO AQUA VENTURERS

By ROBERT HILL

The Aqua Venturers have been swimming all winter long in the ice streaked harbors and shores of Lake Michigan. To quote the Chicago American of February 14th, "The club holds meetings every Sunday, and like all meetings, things don't get sociable until somebody breaks the ice."

This caption appeared beneath a picture of eight ice engulfed members in Burnham Park Lagoon. The five degree above zero temperature caused an eighth of an inch of ice to form on our masks, rendering them useless as far as vision was concerned.

On March 2nd, Ray (the kid) Marcus and Jack (Polar Bear) Diedrich attended a water safety program and were delighted to see an instructional film by Gustav Dalla Valle (an honorary member) teaching two Chicago Aqua Venturers, George Iverson and yours truly the technique of spearfishing. By the way, George was married a few weeks ago. Look out, George, instead of a rolling pin she is liable to use an arbalette.

Texas . . .

## LONE STAR DOLPHINS

By BOB SPRINGER

Teams one and two finally scratch in our interclub spearfishing competition. Charlie Stefano and Zane Price of Team 2, and Don Huntley and Bob Springer of Team 1 joined together on a trip to the North Jetty at Port Aransas and brought in 18 Sheephead. Although the water wasn't good and clear, it was plenty cold enough, so cold, in fact, that one member of the party (ZP) ingeniously devised a new and unique way of spearfishing. But believe you me, it will never last.

Plans are being made for our forthcoming spearfishing meet on the Coast, possibly in August. Any clubs or groups in the State of Texas interested in participating should write us at 189 Montez Rd., San Antonio, Texas as soon as possible so that proper arrangements can be made to accommodate all comers.

New members are really rolling in, and we are beginning to resemble a small army. So many individuals are becoming interested that we have had to set up a definite qualification course in diving, swimming, and related activities for potential members. Incidentally, all members who are not already Senior Life Savers are reminded that classes will be held in the Lone Star Pool again this year, and now is the time to enroll.

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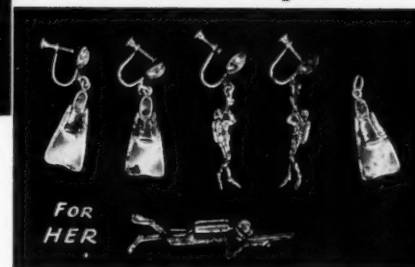
For the gals, His Lordship offers a Skin Diver pin, flipper earrings and Skin Diver earrings. For the charm bracelet both Skin Diver and flippers are available.

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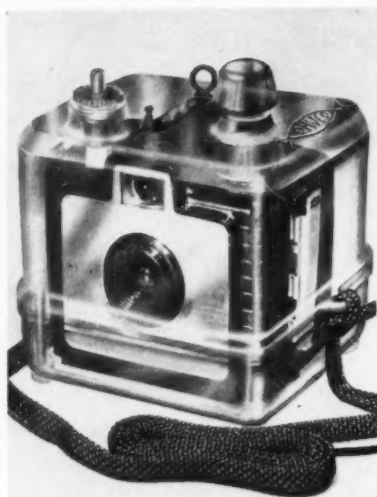
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## PACIFIC GROVE LOONEY GOONEYS

By WAYNE V. DYE

The San Francisco Sport Show is over. Tired "Looney Gooneys" leave for home after nine days consecutive diving in the diving tank under the direction of club member Glen Minard.

We were pleased to be selected as the host club, to meet with many thousands of curious spectators. The keen interest of the crowds was evidenced by the fact that the glass-fronted tank was the center of attraction during every demonstration.

Encouraged by the large crowds, we soon became "ham actors," eating and drinking, drawing portraits, shooting spear guns at a wooden target and in general demonstrating the equipment in a humorous way. "Mock quarrels" were freely indulged in the skits—masks were ripped off and mouthpieces are jerked out, while the victim fumbles for his mask his air is shut off. After the victim turns his air valve on, re-inserts his mouthpiece, puts on his mask and blows it free of water, he now takes revenge on his tormentor who is busily taking bows.

All this horseplay, which provides the crowd with laughter, also demonstrates the ease of living under water.

The hi-lite of our exhibition was a breath-holding contest between club members. We cleared our lungs just before the dive by breathing oxygen. Bob McCurdy stayed down for over six minutes, then Claire Overfelt remained below for eight minutes, 13 seconds. Gustav Dalla Valle, pioneer skin diver, was present and we were pleased to chat informally with him.

Now as we gather at the beach and wade into the surf, adjusting our masks and diving lungs, it seems odd—where are the crowds, spotlights, microphone and this flare of flashbulbs?

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Illinois . . .

## CHICAGO SUBMARINE EXPLORATION GROUP

By VERN PEDERSEN

Our group has had some fine meetings in recent weeks, with election of officers taking place on January 19th, and several fine guests present at our meeting of February 2. However, one thing at a time.

In our elections, the following won office: Bob Domkowski is president, Karl Aldrin is vice-president, and Johnny Private is secretary-treasurer. All of the races were close, with a single vote being the only difference in all cases. The club thanks the outgoing officers, Vern Pedersen, Jim Guth, and Dick Guerine for a fine job during the club's formative months.

At our February 2 meeting, we were privileged to have as guests Zale Parry, Ed Fisher, Jim Auxier, and Mac Alece. To those who do not recognize these names, I will mention their place in the diving world. Zale holds the depth record for women, Ed is the chap who spent 24 hours under the surface of the Gulf of Mexico, Jim is the editor of "Skin Diver" and Mac is a representative of Healthways. All gave fine talks on diving, and were very kind in posing for pictures and signing autographs. Refreshments were served, although our guests were almost

California . . .

## PESCADORES

By HOWARD LINDENMEYER

On March 1, twenty-five of us skin diving enthusiasts met at the home of the Howard Lindemeyers and organized forces for a new club which will henceforth be identified on the California scene as the "Pescadores" (Spanish for fish).

starved by the time we finally let them eat. The four were made honorary members of the club, and Zale was selected by our single members as the "Girl they would most like to make a deep dive with."

On Sunday, Feb. 5, Ed joined us at the Raicene Quarry for a dive through the ice. (Personal to the Milwaukee Amphibians: Where were you?). He did very well, considering he is used to that warm Florida water. With all the rubber suits he was wearing, he needed 50 pounds of lead to sink, however. We hope he had fun.

Our activities all winter have continued through snow and ice, sleet and storm, but with the advent of spring, everybody is happy. It won't be long before we can dive in water that is warm enough to leave the suits home, cold water suits, that it. After all, we can't take skin diving too literally.

Jack Opperman heads our club as president; Howie Lindenmeyer, vice president and Scot George, secretary-treasurer.

We dedicated our activities toward skin diving, spearfishing, conservation of marine life, safety in diving and swimming and compliance with California fish and game laws.

That famous skin diver, Doc Mathison aided and abetted our purpose with his matchless underwater films, answered our many questions about skin diving activities and even brought in some of the very latest equipment—all of which added much color to our first meeting.

The "Pescadores" will be represented with a display booth at the Los Angeles Hobby show for the Council of Diving Clubs from April 22 to May 1. We are also looking forward to entering a team for the underwater spearfishing meet in June.

Ed Handler is on a skin diving vacation around Lake Knowing in old Mexico and we should be hearing some tall tales when he returns. Our new vice president, Howie Lindenmeyer reports the lure of the warm clear Hawaiian water where he spent a week skin diving and surf riding on the Beach at Waikiki, nearly stole his heart away from the mainland and that the cold "shudder" waters of the Pacific will never be the same after Honolulu.

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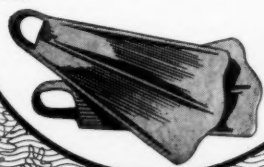
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California . . .

## SEA LANCERS OF SANTA MONICA

By BILL ANDERSON

Our two trips for the months of February and March were to Catalina Island, on the Maray. Neither were too productive. The first trip was to Iron Bound Bay on the windward side. There were big sheepheads down deep, 40 to 50 feet, after they were chased out from the cliffs. The water was clear early in the day with visibility at 50 to 60 feet at times. No bugs were taken there. Late in the afternoon we moved into the lee, no bugs there either. But there were quite a few leopard sharks. Many were hit but only two were landed. Gary Hall got a 28-lb. female about 5' long. But it was disqualified because a lung was used. My 24-lb. female nosed out Gene Daniels' 10-lb. Sheephead for the trophy.

The second trip found few fish around of any size. A smattering of big but very wary sheepheads. The largest fish was Dick Schreiber's 4-lb. 14-oz. calico bass. Which, unluckily, can't win a trophy because calico bass must weight more than 5 lbs. according to present trophy rules.

At our last club meeting Mart Toggweiler, skipper of the Maray, showed us his beautiful color movie: "Skin diving at Catalina." It was really grand. Thanks Mart!

California . . .

## NEWPORT HARBOR SUB-MARINERS

By ALAN WHITE

A box score of the Sub-Mariners' activities, over a two-month period: a weekend trip to Ensenada, Mexico; two beach meets, and three trips to Catalina. The second beach meet was a "bug hunt," as it was held on the last Sunday before the closing of lobster season. Bugs were few in number but big in size. High man for the day was John Lafferty with an 11-lb. bull. Milton Shepp got his first bull, 6 lbs. of him, with Johnny Miller nabbing one of almost equal weight. Ken Green and Logan Heath also took nice-sized lobster that chilly but fruitful day.

One of the Catalina trips was an over-nighter, with the gang camping out near Cherry Cove. Nothing spectacular was speared, but two of the trip's most interesting hours came when we ran into a school of giant Blackfish. The huge monsters (average weight 500 lbs.) were calmly feeding and paid little attention to the boat, even when a couple of the fellows launched the dinghy for a close look. Bob Clark finally got up enough courage to enter the water with them but then the mammals decided they could feed better elsewhere and swam away.

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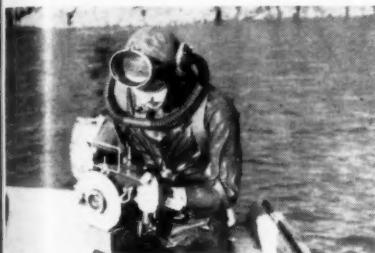
California . . .

## SAN BERNARDINO REEFERS

By JIM McMILLAN

Clear, blue water and a surface temperature of about fifty degrees greeted the Reefers upon their arrival at Punta Banda on the morning of March second.

After breakfasting, Darrol Carlin, Jim McMillan, Bob Martin, and Jerry Miller set out to find a photogenic area. As we had taken Jack Reed's 16mm camera and several magazines of high speed black and white along, movie taking was one of the prime objectives of the trip. It was soon discovered that the entire area with its steep rocky bottom was suitable for picture taking, so after an hour's diving the group returned to camp to pre-



TOP—McMillan, the movie camera, and a portion of a cave near the fishing settlement. Bottom—is of the encampment of the Reefers on the south side of Punta Banda, Baja, California

pare for the next day's diving and picture taking.

The next morning Dean, Martin, and Bob Morris went fishing. After a half hour boat trip they discovered the rock they wished to fish from was inhabited by a large colony of seals. Fishing operations were subsequently transferred to a nearby kelp bed where club president, Martin, shot the biggest fish of the trip, a twenty-five pound Sheephead.

Movie taking was the main order of business on the second afternoon, although fishing operations were not discontinued. Reed's camera functioned perfectly down to fifty feet which was the maximum depth allowed by photographer McMillan's headcold. Sequences included Carlin entering the water (fish-eye view), assorted reef life, and several picturesque shots of a lobster pot.

Anyone interested in the picture or the club is welcome to attend our meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at the San Bernardino YMCA.

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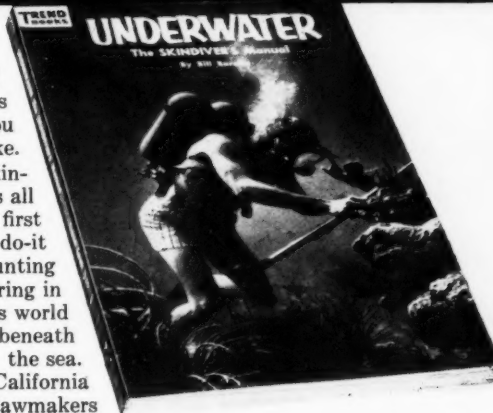
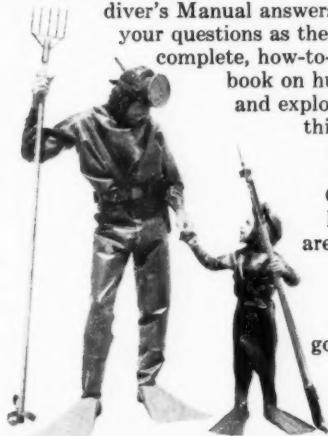
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Massachusetts . . .

## FITCHBURG SHARKMEN

By GENE PARKER

The Fitchburg Sharkmen are located a little too far from salt water to have many opportunities to spear fish, so much of our activities have been directed along lines which we feel other clubs similarly situated might like to hear about.

We are the official diver-rescue unit of the Leominster, Massachusetts Civil Defense. Civil Defense has purchased a compressor for our use. We have a truck complete with blinking lights and a siren for CD rescue and underwater recovery work. Of course, the C D truck is to be used only during actual emergencies. We have a panel truck and a beach wagon with racks for equipment, car top boats, and a boat trailer for use on our only too infrequent ocean trips.

If there had been a diver-rescue unit when Worcester, Massachusetts was devastated by the tornado of June, 1953, we might have been able to save the lives of victims trapped in submerged automobiles. In the National C D test of June, 1954, only seven minutes elapsed between the time we were alerted, and the moment a dummy was recovered from a submerged automobile, over a mile from the starting point.

The Red Cross Livesaving courses and the C D rescue work has given us valuable experience. We believe we are the first skin divers in Civil Defense. The Sharkmen are on call for both the Fitchburg and Leominster Police and Fire Departments for body and contraband recovery. Sunken boats, outboard motors, fishing tackle, and anchors are some of the articles we salvage.

We work with the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Game on reclamation projects. At present one of the leading Science Museums is considering using our services for obtaining underwater specimens.

Now entering the third year, there are 3 active members, and many applicants

**NEW ENGLAND SKIN DIVERS ASSOCIATION**—We are in the process of forming for all divers and clubs in this area similar to other organizations functioning in other regions of the country. The first meeting will be held at the Hotel Statler in Boston, Mass. For exact date and further information write immediately to: New England Skin Divers Association, P.O. 177, Andover, Mass. Telephone Andover 2357.

who have been attracted by newspaper, radio, and television publicity. WBZ-TV filmed Sharkmen diving under the ice, and interviewed us on the "Swanboat" program. We have given lectures and demonstrations at college, YMCA, and municipal swimming pools, and have shown movies and lectured at church and club groups. Exhibits in libraries and movie lobbies have helped to popularize skin diving in our area. At all of these events we have stressed the fact that diving is safe as long as common sense rules are observed.

At present three members are completing the building of a one man submarine. Another is planning a radically designed boat made specifically for spearfishing. It will sleep 5 and accommodate 10 on a day trip. The boat has special ladders, a well for viewing the bottom and to dive through, and lights for night hunting.

We are very pleased to have Ron Merker and Jerry Abbott from the California Sub-Mariners participate in our activities while they are stationed at nearby Fort Devens. Ron held a record for spearing a Black Sea Bass, (203 lbs.)

If there are any clubs that might benefit from our experience (most by trial and error) in salvage, club organization, training, public relations and publicity we would be pleased to swap information.

Anybody interested in skin diving is welcome at our meetings which are held the first and third Wed. of each month at Stevens Business College in Fitchburg, Massachusetts.

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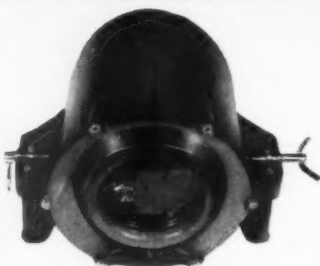
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Oregon . . .

## LES HOMME DE MER

By VERNE WHEELWRIGHT

Everybody's talking about diving, but nobody's doing anything about it—so the fellows who now make up the membership of Les Homme de Mer decided to stop talking and start diving. That, in a nutshell, is the reason that this small but active club was formed—all its members wanted to get out and dive.

In the brief month since the club was formed, two successful jaunts have been made to Puget Sound, as well as one trip to Depoe Bay. Another trip to the "Sound" had to be called off because of ice and snow on the roads.

One of the club members, Dick Wald, has been spending much of his spare time during the week at one of the Portland school pools, demonstrating his lung to swimming classes. He's also been teaching some of our prospective members how to use the lung, which gives them a chance to get the feel of it while under close supervision.

Incidentally, that name, Les Homme de Mer, is French for Men of the Sea. We haven't been able to find anyone who makes waterproof berets. Speaking of names, this would be a good spot to mention the names of the six charter members who organized the club and now form it's nucleus: Jerry Fleming, Jim Gray, Jerry Griffith, Dan MacMahon, Dick Wald, and Verne Wheelwright.

If any of you clubs would like to write us, we'd be glad to hear from you. The address is 2112 7th Ave., Milwaukee, Oregon.

Drop up and see us sometime, if you don't mind cold water!!

California . . .

## NORTH HOLLYWOOD TRITONS

By BILL STOKELY

Diving activities in our club these past few months has been limited to "Ye Old Fishing Hole" at Palos Verdes. Bad weather and rough water have also taken their toll of what started out to be pleasant trips. Yours truly made a record dive last month, although I'm afraid it won't go down on the records as it happened at Mt. Waterman in the snow. The only reward I received for it was a broken leg and lots of sympathy. Also about half of our club are out of activity as they are now in the armed services.

Dick Taylor, Bill Price, and a few others are again leaving for Guaymas. It will be their third trip down to the region. Color movies of the complete trip will be photographed by Bill Price. Trips to Catalina and Punta Banda are also being planned.



Hawaii . . .

## HAWAIIAN CORAL GYPSIES

By BILL D'AOUST

Skin diving hasn't been too good in the Hawaiian area lately, so the Hawaiian Coral Gypsies had a wonderful opportunity to do some repair work on our boat, the Coral Gypsy I. It has been in the water for about a year and a half, and was badly in need of repairs. By the time this goes to print, the boat will be back in the water and we will be aqua-lunging along the reefs of Oahu again.

The H.C.G. is trying out a new idea on accepting members. Not only must the applicant be a good swimmer and practice water safety whenever he enters the water; he must also be observed by the other members of the club. We must be extra careful out here in the 14th naval district. If a member of the naval forces loses his life by careless use of an aqua-lung, our sport of aqua-lunging may be declared too hazardous for anyone except qualified divers, such as the UDT. It behooves each one of us to not only practice water safety, but also teach others how to properly use various pieces of equipment.

Does your club have 100% subscription to  
"The SKIN DIVER"?

California . . .

## MARIN SKIN DIVERS CLUB, INC.

By BOB SIKORA

March was a good month for the Marin Skin Divers. Excellent visibility in the Ft. Ross area produced consistent catches of cod and bass to the amazement of the local fishermen. Nearly everyone has an aqua-lung now and we all have frogman suits.

The big news is the overwhelming success of our exhibition at the Marin Sport Show March 19th and 20th. Ten thousand people, at six performances saw Bob Sikora, Bud Arey, Stan Goldsmith, Dr. Robert Keast, Bob Bruce, John Hull, Mike Moore and Art Bradford don frogman suits and full equipment to demonstrate the aqua-lung, the various spearguns, etc., in the beautiful outdoor swimming pool of the Bermuda Palms. The club has been acclaimed by the press as the feature attraction of the show and six articles and pictures have been published about the club.

Naturally all this favorable publicity has stimulated interest in skin diving greatly and as many as thirteen carloads of skin divers and would be skin divers have been arriving every Sunday morning when the club meets in San Rafael to journey to the coast.

California . . .

## BAKERSFIELD FROGMEN

By RAY W. LLOYD

We have one fine thing to report about our club this month and that is, after our skin diving display, that ran for two weeks in conjunction with the showing of the film "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" at the local Fox Theaters, our membership increased from nine to fifteen.

Our last trip was to Punta Bunda in Mexico. The following members made the trip: Ray Eckhardt, Dean Markham, Wayne Wheelock, Ray Loyd, Dwight Jeffries, John Stone and Gene Parsley.

We speared fish of all kinds and took some big bugs.

The only bad luck we had on the trip was on the last morning we were there. Our boat sank going through the surf, but all hands turned to and we managed to save our gear and get the boat and motor back on the beach.

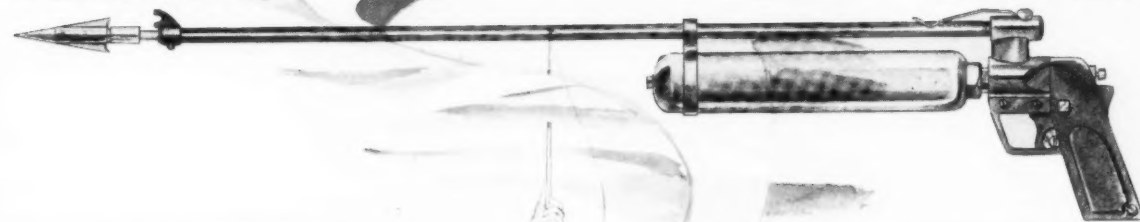
We would like to hear from the Fresno skin divers club so that we could get together at Morro Bay or some suitable place for a dual meet.

In the diving gear department we have been doing fine with some excellent home made suits and spear guns being turned out by members.

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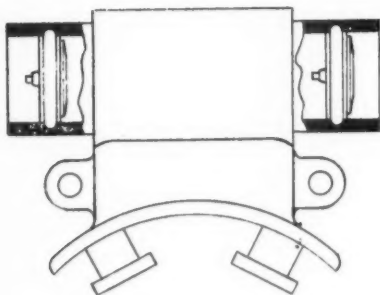


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California . . .

## GOLDEN GATE AQUAKNIGHTS

By JIM POL

Spring is here again so the more hardy members of our club have taken off a layer of underwear because the water temperature will rise about 2° during the spring and summer to a delightful 51°. We of the Golden City have had a busy time during the last two months. March 4-12 the National Sports and Boat Show featured a tank of skin divers from various clubs in this area. We were very pleased and gratified with the interest shown by the general public. Almost everything was done under water that could be managed in a 10' by 6' by 6' tank.

March 27 will be a day the writer will long remember. The club embarked on it's usual weekend trip to Carmel, finding there a very unusual 70 to 80 foot visibility. The water was perfectly calm with fish among the rocks and in every cranny. The most successful catch of the day was an eleven foot, 65-pound octopus. Four of made the catch. Doug William, Ron May, Ed Galindo, and the writer. Doug saw it first and we all joined in the chase, spearing it three times. To our dismay two of the spears tore loose and the octopus, very snooty like, with one of our spears still in him, stuffed himself, spear and all, in a cave with the opening barely 6" in diameter. Ed eventually dislodged it and came to the surface wrapped up like a mummy. Needless to say, we all enjoyed this with fiendish glee. Although the yowls of our finicky parents could not be interpreted as fond purrs of acclamation, we are, nevertheless, immensely satisfied with our prize. A psychiatrist would have enjoyed a field day with us in noting a sudden and startling change of the proud, benign, and fond countenances of our elders upon beholding this fine creature. As everyone knows, the distaff side is always more verbose and vociferous but in this instance the old man came out a little more than ever. Of course this major victory might have been because Mom was temporarily stricken dumb during a hysterical seizure. I am exceptionally bright, so that not more than a scant half hour of wordy bedlam, shaking of fists, and pounding on tables convinced me that this brave dish would not be prepared in Mom's pots or pans, neither would it grace Dad's board. It also occurred to me how few people enjoy the finer things of life, especially our parents. So I guess we must be patient and understanding with them. Perhaps a few more years of gently educating them will permit us to keep one of our prizes somewhere on the premises. »

Maine . . .

## COAST OF MAINE NEPTUNES

By DON LAMONT

The ice has gone, water temperatures are rising, and our skin divers are readying for underwater exploration, spearfishing and salvage diving.

Winter was more of an asset to us than a handicap as it allowed our club more time to knit our organization into a uniform group.

The first club activity will be held the latter part of April or early May when we will dive for lost moorings at a yacht club in our vicinity. Much careful planning is going into this as diving will be in a ten knot current with tricky conditions and low visibility, and the moorings are located in rather deep water.

We have been very fortunate in receiving expert instruction in the use of aqua-lung equipment from two experts in the field, Lieutenant Commander Don Jacques, skipper of the submarine USS Benny, and Charlie Simpson, chief of the boat USS Albacore. Prior to their careful tutoring, none of our members had received instruction from a qualified user of SCUBA equipment, and we had long realized that this was a drastic shortcoming of our club. We are proud to have them as members.

We are now considering establishing chapters of the Coast of Maine Neptunes in the sea coast regions of Maine and New Hampshire. Any persons interested in chartering a chapter of our organization are urged to write. »

California . . .

## LOS ANGELES NEPTUNES

By TERRY LEWIS

On Sunday, March 13th, the Club met at Haggarty's Cove for a lobster dive. The turnout was good and highly enjoyed by those present, except for a complete dearth of lobsters in the pot. After that, a meeting was held at the nearby home of John Backus.

At this writing we are looking forward to the showing on Wednesday evening of a skin diving film by Leon Paddock, a renowned photographer, who had a quarter-hour's footage in "The Sea Around Us." I know it will be a grand experience.

Our club is really getting on to a fine season, what with a social program, Mexico trips, many swell new members, et al. If you live around greater Los Angeles, contact Bob Earle, our secretary, at Osborne 6-0509, and get acquainted. We meet at the L.A. Police Academy. Be our guest.

You California diving clubs: have you joined the Council? And do you have a safety director? With diving getting as big as it is, safety and conservation are more important than ever. Thank you. »

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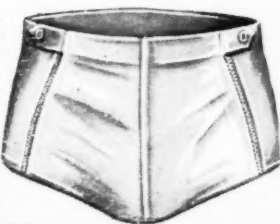


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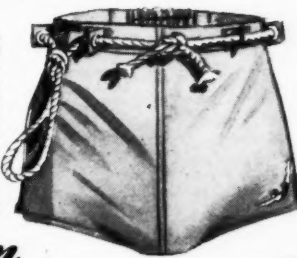
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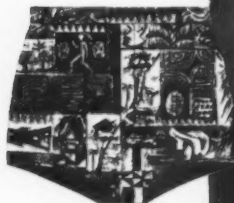




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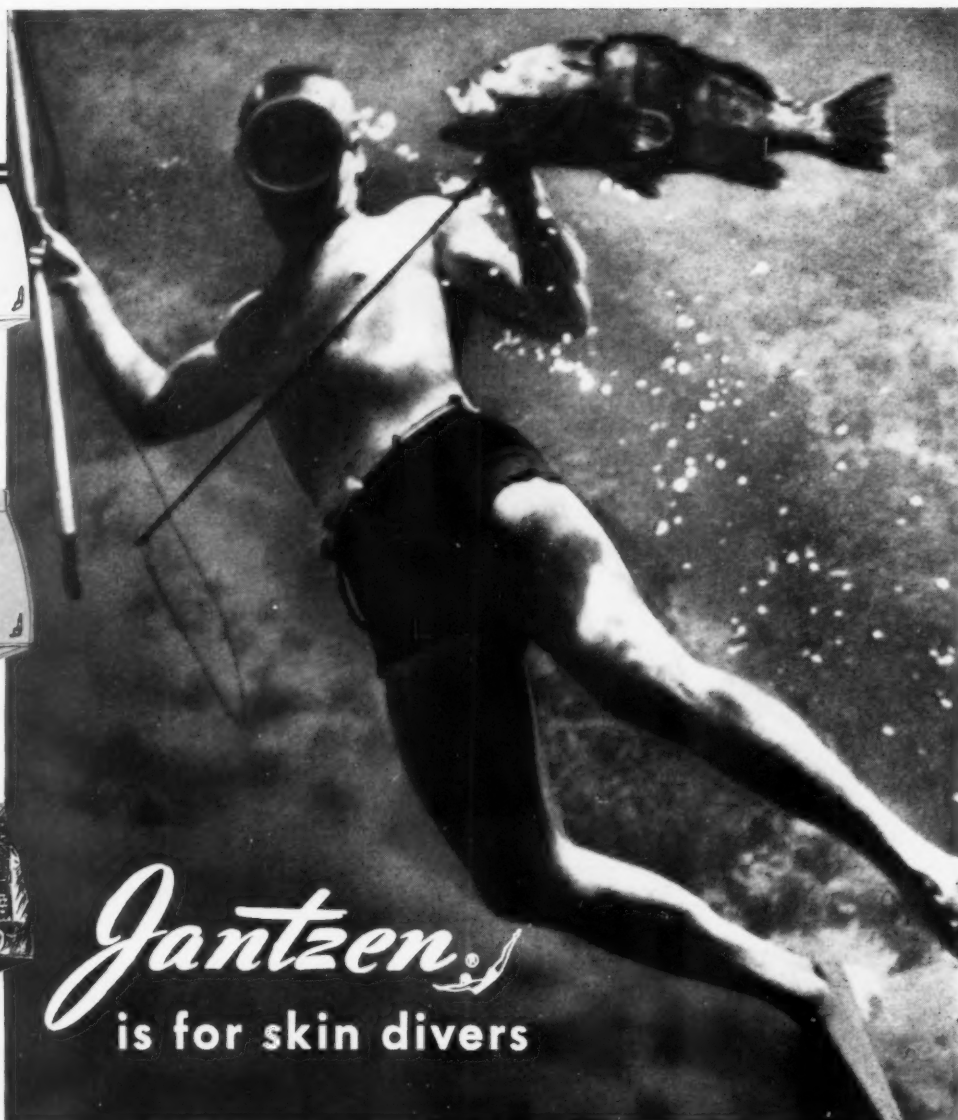


Photo by Howell Conant taken in the waters off Bimini. Fins, mask, and gun by Voit.

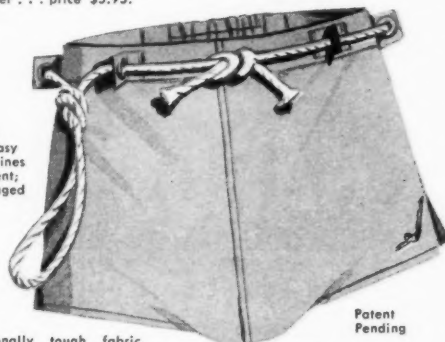
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